

Ship Cyrus whaling on the Coast of Peru. Paul West Master 1805

Monday July 29th Brisk trades at S E and foggy till noon. afternoon fresh breezes and heavy weather strong in till 10 A M seeing many humpbacks, counted found 70 water were ship steered off W N W at Noon saw Lobos de Mar bearing North 3 Leagues Distance at 1 P M saw a school of B. fish try to catch one but did not so steered off W N W at 6 P M Lobos Bearing N 88 E at 7 double reefed the Topsails & lay off & on all the latter part

Tuesday July 30th Brisk trades at S E and tolerable clear weather all of this day steering off W N W with all sail set without seeing anything in the sea except humpbacks and finbacks which appears to have taken possession of the coast for a long time past then entering by the way of exercise run out and booms fore & aft & set out new standing sails, but found them to fall much short of the size suitable to our Depth & width so took them in immediately and put in another cloth to each of them which reduces our stock of light ducts so as requires a new plan for light sails having run off all day & seen no encouragement to stop any longer at present continued headed off under courses during Night

Wednesday July 31st Brisk trade winds at S E and heavy weather all of these 24 hours, made all sail as usual at 5 A M and steered W N W during the day without seeing any sign of spermacety at 7 P M lay to under courses Lobos Bearing N 88 E Distance 42 Leagues

Thursday August 1st fresh trades at S E and muggy whale weather, at 5 A M made sail as usual steered West at 11 saw 6 or 8 spermaceties, put off struck 3, but lost one of them killed and got other two whales along side, weather very muggy were ship to cut below but in rearing ship, one broke adrift which took us until near night to get on board again then tried to finish taking in the other but by the fog flying out and rounding one (Hann) the whale went immediately under the ship & up the sternward. It being 7 P M and dark, secured the whales and let them lay for daylight the ship laying to under two Reef M. Tails & sails at 8 P M Judge Lobos de Mar to be Bearing N 88 E Distance 110 Leagues

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Friday August 2nd Commences Brisk trades at S E and very muggy weather at 5 A M took our whales below to cut in & at 10 had them both on board and began to try the blubber &c. made sail steered off S W saw many humpbacks & finbacks at 6 P M shortened sail to courses winds & weather moderate My calculation of Lobos de Mar Bearing N 88 E Distance 120 Leagues

Saturday August 3rd Gentle trades at S E B E and fair weather standing off S W all day saw nothing except a few humpbacks and 2 bottles Empty at 4 finished trying our blubber and with the assistance of the Wm got it stood below, the whole of the two filling 50 at 6 P M Judge Lobos de Mar to be Bearing N 88 E Distance 135 Leagues took the ship and shortened sail during night

Sunday August 4th Gentle trades at S E B E and fair weather throughout this day standing in N E B E by the wind without seeing anything except a few humpbacks on very clear blue water as usual prepared all craft which the bad weather & late whales had made some havoc amongst and put everything in complete order again for whales or defence against the Enemy, but saw nothing to day at 6 P M Judge Lobos de Mar to be Bearing N 88 E Distance 108 Leagues shortened sail during night, headed in E N E by the wind

Monday August 5th Commences fresh trades at S E B E and very heavy obscure weather made sail as usual and steered in N E B E by the wind all day without seeing anything but three or four humpbacks having crossed many places in the sea above with some small substances in it of a light yellowish colour & afterwards did not see any living thing in the sea during the Middle & latter part of the day at 6 P M the water of a more muddy cast shortened sail for the Lobos Bearing N 88 E Distance 85 Leagues made a Mexican P. G. Regal &c. &c.

Tuesday August 6th Gentle trades at S E B E and fair weather, made sail as usual steered in N E B E at 10 A M saw a noble school of whales put off all three boats got one small whale but found it impossible to touch another so took her along side and cut her in and with the byworks on, to haul her out continued standing in by the Wind it being very moderate at S E & S E at 6 P M shortened sail Lobos de Mar Bearing N 88 E Distance 70 Leagues continued boiling & at 12 finished and stand decks occasionally