

Ship Cyrus whaling on the Coast of Peru, Paul West, master 1805

Thursday August 29th Fresh Gales at S E and S E B E with very dirty squally weather, standing in by the wind under single reef topsails throughout this day on very blue water without seeing anything living in the sea or movables thereon, the weather almost too low to look down a boat of occasion call'd. Dist from Land at 6 P.M. 50

Friday August 30th Commences fresh single reef topsails Trades at S E standing in E N E by the wind, the water being green, try'd bottom found none, at noon blue water, at 1 P.M. saw several spermacettes, down all 3 boats in pursuit of them, but the whales running quick towardward, and the sea very rugged could not touch any of them, so got on board at 4 P.M. and continued headed in by the wind all the latter part, saw humpbacks at 7 try'd for bottom again, found none, the land dist 50 Leagues

Saturday August 31st Commences brisk winds at S E and squally weather standing in E N E by the wind on muddy coloured water Latter part winds and weather moderate & fair saw many humpbacks, and some Black-fish and two Bull-fish the water appearing as shallow, try'd for bottom three times in the course of the 24 hours but found none with 150 fms at 7 P.M. brought too under short sail headed off S W, By my Distances made in standing, in toward the Land for these 4 days past, find that Currents set me off shore, as much as 60 Leagues beyond my calculation, the Land 25 Dist

Sunday September 1st Moderate winds between E S E and S E B E at 6 A.M. made sail stood in N E seeing many Bull-fish and humpbacks, likewise plenty of fowls, such as Pelicans, hawks, Petterels, Black sort of albatrop, and many other species of fowls, but no Spermacettes the horizon being lowry saw no Land within 6 Leagues of us, when at Noon had 90 water grey Land wave Ship steered off W S W on bluish water at 2 P.M. at the edge of the Bank, and Dist from Land at least 10 or 12 Leagues, at 7 P.M. brought too under short sail and headed off all the latter part

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Monday September 2nd Commences light S E winds and lowry weather, at 5 A.M. made sail steered off W S W saw a large shoal of Black fish, got 5 of them and continued steering W S W all day Middle and Latter part until 7 P.M. have too again headed off under short sail having had a beautiful fair day, and a sharp look-out for whales but as usual, but could not see anything but humpbacks and fowls, went the New Main-top sail & middle stitched it (after bending, & other) and put it in good order for foul weather, at 6 P.M. Lobos de Mar { Dist 150 miles } & Santa { E N E } { 124 miles }

Tuesday September 3rd Very fresh trades at S E and clear weather all of this day at 5 A.M. made sail as usual, steered W S W and ran off into the water of 3 knots from 5 A.M. to 7 P.M. the sea almost too bad for whaling, although not so lucky as to have a chance to try it, not seeing anything alive in the sea, but a few humpbacks, got up and second best Foresail, and altered it so as to be of service by the wind at 12 or noon entered the green water at 2 P.M. out of it at 7 have too again under short sail headed off S W winds very fresh, Lobos de Mar { Bearing N E E } { Distance 67 Leagues }

Wednesday September 4th Very fresh trades at S E B E and uncommon rugged weather, at 5 A.M. made sail, Steered N B E all day under single reef to topsails & two stay sails, Winds too strong for more sail without driving land finished altering the Foresail, saw nothing but a humpback during the day, although at the western edge of the Coast at 7 P.M. have too headed in, Lobos de Mar { 50 Leagues }

Thursday September 5th Continues very fresh winds at S E & E S E with uncommon rugged weather for the Coast of Peru steering N N E all day with as much wind as need be for single reef to topsails, without seeing any living thing in the sea, neither one thing nor the other as if every sperm whale had forsaken this part of the world, Employ'd as Mice-pary, Repaired the W. Top-sail & jill 40, 40, & 40 at 7 P.M. have too under short sail during Night, Lobos de Mar { Bearing E N E } { Distance 60 Leagues } headed E N E