

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

Friday September 6th Commenced strong trade at S E with misty weather steered S E with single Reef to Spanish Set fore & aft Middle part the wind and Weather more moderate than has been for four days past with W. T. G. Sail over a reef after getting the Latitude, stood in by the wind E B N on very thick redish water, at 4 P M made the Land Punta de Anas, and Spmacety Head E B S 7 or 8 Leagues at 5 tackt Ship, stood off by wind all the latter part saw nothing in the Sea but humphacks, and a few Seals.

Saturday September 7th Moderate trade at S E and fair weather stood off by the wind until noon without seeing any living thing in the Sea and any sign of Spmacety whales, Judging myself about 30 Leagues Distance West of Cabo de Torre, tackt Ship, stood in by the Wind to 7 P M all the latter part, at 5 P M saw several humphacks the water very light green. So ends, all well on board except some few complaints arising amongst the crew which I am sure are symptoms of the Scurvy.

Sunday September 8th Commenced Brisk S E trade and rugged Weather, weather standing in by the wind at 6 A M made the Land, Punta Anas N B E 5 Leagues Distance, the weather proving bad, No Whales seen, lately, Cavabants, Symptoms of Scurvy amongst my crew, & at present in a Situation where there is a great probability of getting some Refreshments (if caught for) bore up and ran into Sechuva Bay, Capt. Ellis, loaded the Guns great & small and made every preparation for taking the Enemies (Capt in the bay at noon rounded Punta de Anas, but saw no Boat or vessel whatever, so ran into the Bay and came too on 6 water Punta de Anas bearing W N W Point Head N 60 N and Sechuva Church E 65 N and the nearest shore E B S S Dist 2 1/2 miles and lay with all prepared for defence, all the latter part scurried the heads &c as necessary in still water.

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Monday September 9th Moderate winds at S E and fair weather at 8 A M weighed and ran over N E 2 towards Sechuva River, at 5 saw three fishermen come out of the River, brought them all to an Anchor, and took all of the Ship's on board Prisoners found them very anxious to grant my requests of supplies for their liberty, but they had not wherewith to purchase them, therefore I gave them sufficient money to begin with, and sent six of them on shore to bring off all the Vegetables they could produce, at 4 P M Rang too off Sechuva Head and took all of their (Capt's) action of the Ship the wind very fresh, and sea rugged, at 8 received a Boile from them with their produce, 28 pumpkins, 300 plantains, 1 (Cito) Rice, and a few Potatoes, took them on board and permitted the Capt to return ashore, during Night some of the Capt's made their escape, as I would not find a Cannon least the Report should alarm the enemies at Punta if any there. So ends with the remaining 3 Shippers confid on Board.

Tuesday September 10th Gentle breezes at S E till 10 A M then at 11 till 3 P M at 8 A M weighed and got Sail made, and prepared for defence if at daylight any Enemy should appear, laid on and off, at the Entrance of the River all the fore part, at 3 P M saw a Capt part off from the Shore (wind fresh dead on shore) sent a boat, towed her off but she brought only six Sheep and two Goats, took them on board discharged the Prisoners and made the best of my way out of the bay, the winds light from the Southward all the latter part, finding the Risk too great for me to stay any longer so made a common place of Rendezvous for the Spanish Vessels of War.

Wednesday September 11th Commenced Brisk wind at S E and fair weather, Steered W N W until Noon when Punta de Anas and Spmacety Head bore East, 16 Leagues Distance, saw nothing, but 3 humphacks latter part brisk breezes Steered West till 7 P M then hove too Spmacety Head (East 35 Leagues) no whales to be seen Employed as necessary, shifted the Cables forward to trim Ship.

Thursday September 12th Brisk S E gale at S E & S E and fair Steered off West all of this day without seeing anything except two humphacks in the Sea, no sign of Spmacety to be seen, but here in hopes of seeing them every hour Employed on board as necessary, Repaired our old Forecast So ends with all hands in health on board and greatly in want of some Green Employment, latter part stood off by a wind under Spanish, at 7 P M Cape Horn Dist 10 Leagues