

Ship Cyrus on a passage from P. Blanco to the Galapagos Islands 1805

Sunday
September 22nd Moderate Winds at about South and S.W. and fair weather steered W.N.W. till Noon when finding (by O.B.S.) we must have had a current setting to the N. at the rate of 3 knots for the last 24 hours past, we hauled up W.B.N. and at 6 up West, having run through strong currents rips all day, with Topmast-Studding-sails set, without seeing anything living in the Sea, at 6 in Studding-sails. As there is water to be had at the Galapagos Isles, at present, and not likely to be had two or three months hence, I think proper (as there is no whales hereabouts) to run off to them and recruit our stock of water and get what little.

Refreshe the Islands affords, At 6 P.M. Tumbled 30 Leagues

Monday
September 23rd Gentle breezes between S.B.E. and S.W. with flights of fogg and then again broken cloudy weather, steered West till 6 A.M. then W.B.N. set Studding-sails and all Staysails and run off all day without seeing any living thing in or on the Sea, at 6 P.M. again at South in Studding-sails, hauled up W.B.S. in consequence of a current setting to 7 N. at 1 knot. At 6 P.M. judge myself 100 Leagues Dist from P. Blanco. There is nothing remarkable to be seen, on the Sea, it continuing as it has been, ever since being 3 Leagues from Land, that is of a deep blue colour.

Tuesday
September 24th Gentle breezes at from S.B.E. to S.W. steering W.B. with fair weather but nothing to be seen in the Sea. At noon an alarm was made by the look-out, that there was Spermocetes within a mile of us, so without another view of them brought to, and made all preparation for them but could not see them (if there was any) again, whilst laying too at Noon, saw the Land bearing W.B.N. 10 Leagues at 1 P.M. made sail again steered W.S.W. all this afternoon against a current setting to 7 N. E. at the rate of 1 1/2 or 2 knots at 6 P.M. the wind at South, brim sharp by 7 wind to fetch by tomorrow of (Catham Island) at 6 P.M. fog cleared and we saw Hood's Island bearing S.B.W. the W. point of Catham I. W.N.W. and the Eastern point N.E. E.

Continued on the other side

Ship Cyrus at the Galapagos Islands. Paul West Master 1805

Tuesday
September 24th (Continued) at 3 P.M. the West point of Catham Island bore North one League continued steering West & W.B.N. at 12 saw Harrington Island S.W. 10 or 12 miles. Tides moderate at South and W. fair but dark. To end.

Wednesday
September 25th The gentle breezes at from S.B.E. to S.W. with some flights of fogg steered W.N.W. till 5 A.M. then saw an Island that is not laid down in any Chart of Capt. Colnett's nor by any other to my knowledge, it being at least 4 Leagues from E. West did not get past it till 7 A.M. having it to 7 N. of me run by it, saw Charles Island South from this Island rounded it and steered more to 7 N. as far as W.N.W. N.W. run down amongst a number of Islands without getting any bottom at 30 or seeing the least appearance of Rocks or any Shoals, sands, or any other dangers laying off from the Islands at 11 the W. cleared saw (see) Dolomieu & Cap. Woodford, West at 3 or 4 Leagues Dist. Likewise James's Island N.W. continued steering N.W. and thereabouts occasionally, and over between Alcedo and James's Island, saw nothing movable so run into James's Bay with fresh wind at 1 P.M. and anchored with the Larboard bow & moved ship, on the hard sandy bottom, the West point of James's I. 20 W. and just on with Charles Island the N.W. point, North, and the N. point of Alcedo W. 27 N. I saw a boat went on shore at the bottom of the Bay got five Tortoises, signal made for a strange sail, I went on board immediately and saw the sail showing N.W. 3 or 4 leagues, and by appearing to be a White Ship not endeavouring to get in here, I concluded to hold my place (with a good watch &c.) untill morning.

Thursday
September 26th Breeze trades at S.E. throughout this day the Ship laying in James's Bay at 6 A.M. nothing being in sight. Made three boats and spread the canvas in search of land. Tortoises, two boats turned & the other to leeward, at evening the boats returned on board with 29 Tortoises in the whole, the low part of the Island being distributed of Tortoises did not get any more than five on that part of the Island. Empty'd the Carpenters and a hand at cutting wood. To end. The water having been seen by either of the boats coast