

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

Monday 3rd December Light winds between S & E and South with fair W^{ind} lying by a whale until 5 A.M. took to on to him & at 9 had him all in the weather being very fair & sea smooth saved every fragment of the whale (as of our last) at 10 after making sail stood off to the S.W. & began looking out and killed 1 saw nothing in the sea to day. At 6 P.M. the Land at 85 Leagues Dist

Lat. 12-53 80-56

Tuesday 10 December Light winds between S & E with very pleasant W^{ind} coming off & on at between 90 & 92 Leagues Distance from Lima at 7 A.M. saw a school of whales at a great distance towards wind being light just off two boats at 9 came up with them found them B-pish to our great disappointment we returned on board opened & cleared out the fore hold for stowing our oil found many fish in a decayed state & too bad to export. So took some to mend others at 6 P.M. finished hauling our blubber having started some of our B-pish oil overboard and filled the cask with better oil at 7 the Land at 72 Leagues Distance saw no whale to day

Lat. 12-56 80-40

Wednesday 11 December Commenced light winds at S & E & very smooth sea, coming off & on at 72 Leagues from the Land without seeing anything except 3 or 4 Grampases during the day Latter part Gentle breezes, stood in by the wind E.N.E. well Employed Stood down the Oil of our last whale 65 At 6 P.M. the Land at 60 Leagues Distance, took off to S.W.

Lat. 11-50 80-10

Thursday 12 December Commenced Gentle Gale at S & E with fair W^{ind} stood off S.W. took in our stern boat repaired it and placed it again. At 3 A.M. saw a spermacety chased but did not fasten to her came on board stood off S.W. wind at E.S.E. at 4 P.M. saw several Spermaceties gave chase but got none being too late in the day returned on board and endeavoured to find them when daylight appeared again by laying off on the latter part under easy sail the Land at 82 Leagues Dist

Lat. 12-03 80-52

Friday 13 December Gentle evening breezes at about S & E fair weather throughout these 24 hours laid off & on all the fore & hours then being in the same place where was many whales last night. saw nothing but a few B-pish so steered in N.E. all day seeing several schools of B-pish & some small fish, but no Spermaceties Employed on board as Neesparry Cooper at repairing casks & stitching some loose prog & to be ready for a larger haul at 6 P.M. the Land at 71 Leagues Dist, took off to S.W.

Lat. 11-58 80-47

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Saturday 14 December Light winds at East to S & E with fair weather steered off S.W. all day till 3 P.M. without seeing anything in the sea except a few whales passing over the same ground where there seemed to be tolerable whaling a few days ago. But at present we don't find whales so continued proceeding diligently every minute as an hour Employed painted the foreward boat as Neesparry the Land at 82 Leagues

Lat. 12-18 80-50

Sunday 15 December Light evening breezes at S & E & S.E. with fair weather stood in to the E.N.E. throughout the day without seeing anything in the sea, not but very few flocks of any kind whatever the colour of water very blue as usual at 6 P.M. the Land at 70 Leagues took to ship & stood off S.W. all the latter part

Lat. 11-55 80-40

Monday 16 December Gentle evening breezes at S & E to S.E. & S.S.E. stood in to the E.N.E. & the wind all day seeing a dozen schools of B-pish and plenty of fish, but no Spermaceties. The water very blue Employed as Neesparry unhooked and old Main-sail, wiped the deck and put it all the A.S. on board. At 3 P.M. took to ship to S.W. the Land at 56 Leagues

Lat. 11-46 80-40

Tuesday 17 December Light winds at S & E to East with pleasant weather for whaling, steered off S.W. all day, without seeing anything in the sea but a few small fish & two schools of B-pish being about the same ground where we got whale y^e 1st & 3rd Instant at 7 P.M. shortened sail as usual & lay off & on during Night with great anxiety for the sight of a fishes breath as daylight appeared at 6 P.M. the Land at 73 Leagues Distance

Lat. 12-06 80-30

Wednesday 18 December Light winds at E to S & E with Calms, steered off to the S.W. all day without seeing anything alive in the sea saw one dead turtle, but no sign of any Spermacety the Land at 80

Lat. 12-30 80-47

Thursday 19 December Light winds at S & E & East with fair weather stood in to the N.E. all day without seeing anything in the sea except some few Bonitos the colour of the water a light blue & much the same as when whales were to be found hereabouts, but at present we cannot find the best encouragement for whales to come on this ground Immediately, but continue cruising over & over the ground that has been lucky with whales and generally free from Spaniards at 7 P.M. shortened sail & lay off & on as usual at Night Judging my Distance from Lima to be about 78 Leagues

Lat. 12-08 80-47