

Journal of a Whaling Voyage by Thomas O'Rourke

December Ship Grand Turk 1836

20 Made all sail for Port Napoleon

25 Saw a humpback and a fin back

January 1837

Jan 22 Made Port Napoleon at 11 A.M. Madagascar

30 Got a sperm whale made us 500 lbs

Feb. 10 Got a sperm whale made 30 lbs

11 Bought a Quadrant from our third mate

12 Saw whale going quick to leeward

14 Commenced learning navigation took my first altitude

15 Made all sail for St. Augustine Bay, Madagascar

March 1 Made Robin Hood's Island at 6 A.M.

2 Came to anchor at 6 P.M. in St. Augustine Bay. Went ashore at 7 P.M. came aboard at 8

15 Got under weigh bound to Pasa de India for trade

23 Made land went ashore got 6 shells. Suffered greatly from the mosquitoes.

25 Got three big Portuguese men of war which swimming round the ship

27 Made sail for St. Augustine Bay

April 13 Came to anchor went daily for wood a water

14 Had the royal family aboard

15 Had an invitation from the King to dine on the 16th

16 Spent this day with Prince William and the wife of Friendship at my departure

Journal of a Whaling Voyage by Thomas O'Rourke

April Ship Grand Turk 1837 Remarks

23 Attacked by three of the natives. I must have remarks with an intention to rob and murder with great humanity. I was rescued by Prince William and 4 others who were feeling and who took one of the aggressors prisoner, carried me aboard and gave me a mat as their law was for retaliation and he had to give the chiefs a cow

27 Made sail for St. Paul a little island in the lat of 39 Deg. 32. South and Long of 172 Deg. 32. West where whalers come to have their young

May 27 Made Amsterdam a little island close to St. Paul where whalers come for to have their young

29 Got a right whale slept here until we got 7 seals made 400 lbs. Last night boat got stove in one of the hulls was hurt. We had a great quantity of good black and vermilion here. Spent our breakfast

Aug. 10 Made sail for Port Louis Ile of France Mauritius. The cruelty with which they treat their slaves is beyond compare

23 Came to anchor at 7 P.M. morning

24 Went ashore to buy fresh provisions

25 Bought an ironing out of the ship Liverpool

Sept 1 Got under weigh bound to the whale ground one of the crew ran away

30 Got a whale. Slept on this place from the lat 33 Deg. to 38 Deg. South and Long 68 to 80 E. This day we got 15 right whales which made us 850 lbs. altogether 249 lbs. and between 25 and 2600 lbs. We could do no more whales and were nearly full. We therefore began to think of home