

Journal on board

S.P.O. 1 January 1871

Wednesday Jan 18
Calms, the vessel boats chasing blackfish and two other sails in sight also humpbacks

Thursday Jan 19
Another calm, how dull it is here in a calm the hot sun pouring down the flapping canvas against the mast, at sea so but not in a more comfortable state of mind especially if there is work to do. Humpbacks are fine tracks below

Friday Jan 20
Nothing or no kind of weather the I have seen at sea is worse than a calm and here we are becalmed again today. A fire off the lee bow

Saturday Jan 21
This is the kind of weather - a nice, just wind enough to give the sails a hard pull and here all sail out then the ripple of the water across cut through it and a light wind to fan us make it pleasant indeed

Sunday Jan 22
I took possession this morning, sunset sail all night and this morning took in the sails a French ship of war passed us this morning a very hard some craft with sails set she was up good sight

Monday Jan 23
Strong breeze in the morning, was here to, fine tracks humpback porpoises & show the water

Tuesday Jan 24
Another calm day, yesterday we could with difficulty keep warm today it is no less difficult to keep cool, one sail in sight

Wednesday 25
Turned up the starboard boat and lines then from the damage done some time in November and that completed the day as this does the page

Bark Alfred Gibbs

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Thursday Jan 26th 71
A pleasant day, three sails in sight they were gannets, and most of ships to more of it than we, but if we can get the oil that is all we are after it is no pleasure trip, porpoises gannets and humpbacks in sight

Friday Jan 27th 71
A gale of wind, nothing in sight, was here to under close reefed main topsail

Saturday Jan 28th
This month has been, probably, a fair sample of Spili weather, three or four days calm and three days a gale of wind such it is today was under sail usual to us in such weather a close reefed main topsail and fore staysail but, these gales will be just the thing when we begin to scum-schem if we are ever allowed to, which is -

Sunday Jan 29th
Here to, the same wind and the same sail set on the same tacks, finally there is a great deal of talk of business in the business as well as in the days record

Monday Jan 30th
A strong breeze yet, but put a little more sail on and let her fly(?) nothing in sight and the usual round of duty, other matters we think of the monotonous life I have heard so much of in whale ship but it is none the less pleasant to me

Tuesday Jan 31st
Fine weather several sails in sight, at noon came in sight of Juan Fernandez at four o'clock it was nearly out of sight at ten, took in sail at night as usual down to double reef