

July 5th 1853

A dead calm fine weather
and no whales Steward well again
Lat. 32° 00' Lon. 51° 50'

July 6th

No change perceptible with the
exception of a sail seen a long distance
Lat. 32° 05' Lon. 51° 48'

July 7th

Calm weather continues and
the heat very intense The sail
we saw yesterday, seems to be somewhat
nearer to day Lat. 32° 14' Lon. 51° 38'

July 8th

Very light breeze from the N.
Course N. E. by E. Spoke at 7 A. M.
an Irish brig laden with sugar
She is the Craft we have seen these two
days past Lat. 32° 17' Lon. 51° 10'

July 9th

Another calm day has been our
lot during which we have seen ^{also} groups
These are about the size of blackfish but
much more difficult to capture and are
seldom taken. At 6, P. M. some of our
crew over the side for a bath and as
the Bark lay so still with the sea
remarkably smooth and warm I concluded
to join them anticipating a pleasant
swim But I had scarcely touched the

water in I had cause to regret the step
I had taken for just as I was ⁱⁿstepped
out from the vessels side I came in
contact with a "Portuguese man of
war" and instantly its web was
entangled about my neck and arms
causing so much pain that I was
glad to get on board as soon as possible
We did it and thus. Had I merely
touched it without having it tangled
about me nothing but a sting like
that of a bee would probably have been
felt but on the contrary I was
fairly wound about with its fine
fibre like threads from the strings
of which it having struck to my
stomach I suffered three hours of
the most intense pain I ever
realised In fact I believe a few hours
more of the like endurance and I
should have been perfectly insane.

But thanks for the administration
at length of a powerful dose of laudanum
This soon produced the desired effect
and gradually I became easy under
its influence.

It may easily be believed that from
this time I resolved never voluntarily
to trouble the waters where the
Portuguese man of war are to be found
In some places there are said to be seen
floating on the water in large numbers