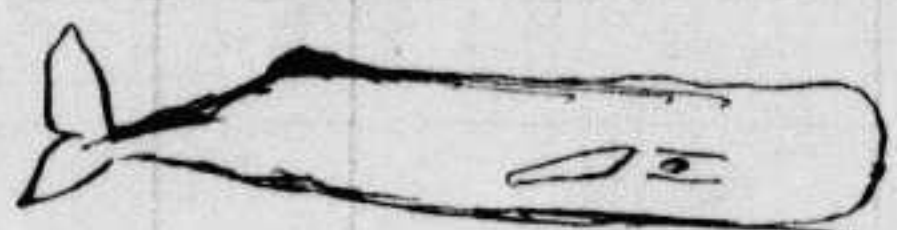


Bark Mermaid Cruising on New Holland

Tuesday May 10th 1870

The last three months has passed away without seeing any whales. We have cruised on the West Coast from 28.00 Lat & 110. Long to 22 Lat & Long 104. W. This morning at 11 A.M. saw Whales and lowered for them. Chased until 4 P.M. when the larboard boat struck a whale calf and saved him. Chased until sunset, could not get to them.



Lat 25.06 Long 110. W.

Friday June 24th The last six weeks has passed away without seeing any whales. We have cruised from the Lat of 28.20 & 40 25.0 and from Long 108.5 to 110.6 Saw plenty of birds and finbacks. Wednesday last had a moderate gale from the Westward. This day fine weather. This is the driest time I ever saw on New Holland. I have seen whales but once in three months. But we are living in hopes of better times.

Mother was quite sick 3 weeks ago last Sunday for three days she suffered dreadfully, her old complaint pain in the stomach. She is quite well at present. Baby is growing at a great rate Flora much as usual. We are getting along nicely with only one drawback not seeing any whales.

Lat 25.50 Long 107.10 E

Saturday June 25th Comes in with beautiful weather much light breeze from S.W. The Bark Steering S.E. at 12.30 P.M. saw two Whales going N.E. lowered for them at 2 P.M. Waist Boat struck and saved a large Whale got him alongside about 4.30. took in sail and commenced cutting. finished daylight latter part bad weather blowing quite a smart gale from the westward. Employed cutting up junk larboard boat stow.

Lat 25.50 Long 108.10 E

Monday June 28th 1870

Comes in with moderate gale latter part moderate at daylight. Commenced boiling heads Middle and latter part fine weather. Saw finbacks and birds - Lat 25.30 Long 107.02 E

Friday July 1st This day light Northwily winds. The Bark Steering to the Eastward. Employed repairing larboard boat. yesterday stowed down in the main hatchway. finished about 5 P.M. Saw finbacks & birds.

Lat 27.31 Long 107.22 E

Saturday July 2nd 1870

This day Comes in with strong breeze from S.S.W. The Bark Steering S.V.E. at 12 P.M. saw two Whales going N.N.W. lowered three Boats for them. the larboard Boat struck about 2.30 P.M. soon after the starboard boat struck and was cut in two by the whale jaw. The waist boat picked up the crew, and brought them to the ship. The whale sounded about this time. The mate drewed from him. The 2nd mate got near enough to dart at him and got a slight iron in but soon drewed from him, and lost the whale. Saved one piece of the boat and lost time and nearly all the craft. So ends one year from home, with 180 lbs sperm. Lost nearly 200 lbs sperm that we have been fast to, with about 1200 fathoms line.

Lat 27.00 Long 108.32 E

Thursday July 7. Comes in with good weather and moderate breeze from S.W. the Bark Steering to the N.S.W. at 7 A.M. saw Whales two of the them going S.E. lowered the three Boats about 11 A.M. fastened to the waist Boat and saved the whale. Took him alongside about 3 P.M. got dinner and commenced cutting got the head off and body in about daylight. So ends a good day, both.

Lat 27.00 Long 108.15 E