

Remarks on Board Ship *Mercury*

Saturday January 4th 1845

This day commenced with strong winds and squalls at 1 o'clock ran the old main topsail and bent a new one. Ship bore to blowing heavy gale from N.W. head W.S.W. at 10 A.M. moderated at 1/2 past 12 P.M. called all hands and made sail setting all 3 top gallant sails. Watch employed setting up main rigging, main topmast & top gallant and rigging. Latter part dead calm. So ends these 24 hours.

Sunday Jan 5th 1845

This day commenced with fine weather and a calm. Watch employed heaving anchors and reading at 7 A.M. took in sail and stood boat crew watches at 1/2 past 12 made sail and kept her off S.E. 1/2 S. Wind N.E. at 10 wind increased luffed close to wind heading N.E. P. So ends these 24 hours. Lat. 37.44. S.

Monday Jan 6th 1845

This day commenced with strong winds from S.W. heading N. at 2 A.M. a brig in sight to the leeward at 6 called all hands and tacked ship standing to the E.N.E. at 7 took in sail and set boat crew watch. Called all hands at 5 made sail. tacked ship heading N.E. S. Watch employed making cement and fitting head straps for sperm whales. So ends these 24 hours.

Tuesday Jan 7th 1845

This day commenced with fine weather and light winds from N. heading N.E. at 3 A.M. struck a porpoise and got him at 5. Working off ducks. Hords full overhead off the sail lowered a boat and saved him at 7 took in sail and set boat crew watches. Latter Part Light winds. Watch employed in ships duty so ends these 24 hours.

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Wednesday January 8th 1845

This day commenced with light winds and pleasant weather. Wind from the E. Steaming N.W. at 3 A.M. raised a sail of the Starboard bow. Standing 1 point across our bow at 6 A.M. ran across her stern and found her to be the Golconda Captain Stucky 3 mo. out no oil brand round the horn to N.West. Gained with her and took in sail at 8 came aboard the keeping on her course at 11 wore ship and stood to the N. at 4 called all hands made sail and kept her off to the Westward at 9 raised a sperm whale ahead luffed to the wind and kept him on our lee bow at 10 luffed away and the Starboard boat fastened to him held on till he took half our line and then drew from him. chased him and the bow boat fastened to him and drew give up chase and then came on board. So ends these 24 hours.

Thursday January 9th 1845

This day commenced with fine weather and light winds from the E.N.E. sent out fore topmast fluting sail and kept her in the direction we last said the whale at 4 luffed to wind and hauled the main yard aback thinking we had men for a rough but we saw nothing of him at 7 took in sail and wore ship heading to the S.W. and set boat crew watches at 5 P.M. called all hands and made sail steering close to the wind. Watch employed breaking out for tar. So ends these 24 hours.

Friday January 10th 1845

This day commenced with fresh breeze from the E.N.E. steering close to wind larboard tacks aboard at 1 A.M. raised breeches on the weather bow but we saw them no more at 7 took in sail and set boat crew watches at 11 called all hands and made sail