

1845

January 1st - A happy New Year to all - How different my situation from what it was a year ago. We are now bound with a fine breeze up along the coast,

Jan 2nd - Very warm weather. The "old man" is now at work repairing and altering the sails which need it; the "spun yarn grommet" is again flying around, from which we hope quite a relief, whilst coming round the Horn and, on the whaling grounds,

Lat about 25°
Jan 3rd, There is a Comet in sight every night, which we have seen for more than a week,

Sun - Jan 5 - Warm and pleasant,

Jan 6th - ~~Still~~ To day we are coopersing the oil on deck,

Jan 7th - Off hands on deck - "Broke out" the lower hold down to the "ground tier" that we might run down the oil; have run down the whale oil and the sperm oil excepting the "head",

Jan 8th - Tarring down and setting up, rigging,

Jan 9th - Warm and pleasant, a large turtle drifted by us this morning. We are in latitude 11° about the region of the Gallapagos Islands where there are plenty of turtles. Plenty of skipjacks are around the ship one of which we caught this morning,

Sun Jan 12th - Light winds - We have seen to day a host of dozen schools of black fish close by the ship, some of which came under the bows, and were struck with the poppet gig. A slight shower of rain towards

night,

Jan 13th - Plenty of skipjacks ground, some half a dozen of which we have caught and they prove very palatable. We have quarters water again every night, though we don't take in sail,

Jan 14th - Lat 4° 32' S Lon 87° 52' W, steering nearly N.

Jan 15th - We are now running along with a good breeze. W by N. As we are on the sperm whale grounds, we intend to cruise here 3 or 4 weeks, before going into port,

Jan 16th - A fine breeze. We are now at work overhauling and mending the sails,

Jan 17th - Pretty fresh breeze all day. Towards night a squall came on, and continued through the greater part of the night, so that we took in all sail except the topsails and fore sail. A considerable rain also fell,

Jan 18th - Early this morning Charles Island one of the Gallapagos group was in sight and by 11 o'clock A.M. we were close alongside of the island. But the "old man", not wishing to land, kept off to the northward and westward. Very soon after Charles Island came in sight, the largest of the group. We saw whilst close by the land several seals, one right alongside of the ship. Quite a number of birds were seen from mast-head this afternoon, which at first were supposed to be "sperm whales", but proved the contrary. A sail was also in sight early this morning, which stood directly for us for some time and then "kept away" on the opposite tack. Before she was out of sight another was discovered on our lee beam, steering for the island which was abreast of us. But about noon the "wire ship" and stood away. One of the ships came in sight again this afternoon to the windward of us, and