

Coast of Japan

Remark on board Tuesday September 14th 1830

First part moderate breezes in the S.W. with pleasant weather. Middle part light breezes in the S.W. Latter part fresh breezes from South and squally steered North sea porpoises

Latitude by obs 31.27 N Long by obs 171.00 East
Wednesday September 15th

First part fine breezes from South, steered by the wind to the Eastward. Middle & Latter part moderate with fair weather, with exception of a few squalls of rain.

Latitude by obs 31.12 N Longitude by obs 170.50

Thursday September 16th

First part fine breezes from S.E. steering to the westward. At 20 minutes before sundown saw two Sperm whales to the westward of us, 5 miles steered for them. They went down at 15 minutes before sundown, and that was the last we saw of them. Through the night light breezes from the Southward, steered to the westward under short sail. Latter part at 7 A.M. saw a large whale going to the westward, very quick under water and very slow when up, which was but a very small part of the time, for she would go down and stop an hour and fifteen minutes, and stop up but five, we finally got good run of her, and a good breeze sprang up, which before had been light which enabled me to go just as I wished to go with the ship, (and the boats which had been off from the first of our seeing the whale) were able to do the same, with the help of their sails. At 12 o'clock the whale came up close to one of the boats. Lat 31.40 N Long by obs 170.55 E

Friday September 17th

The boat nearest to the whale went on and made fast, and in 10 minutes after the whale was dead. The wind had now fell away to a calm so that it was three o'clock when I took the whale along side. At sundown got the head off broke one summer hook. It was calm with a high swell, which made it bad cutting. At 8 in the evening got the body in. Through the night hard rain with thunder and lightning. Latter part cut in the head and began to boil. Lat 31.45 N Long by obs 171.22 East

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Remark on board Saturday September 18th

First & Middle part light breezes from the westward, with fair weather, employed a boiling. Latter part light breezes and variable with very pleasant weather. At sunrise saw a great many whales, and thought them to be sperm whales

but they finally proved to be finbacks. I think therefore was the greatest number of them together that I ever saw before. I passed through them steering to the Eastward, with light breezes in the S.W. and at 11 o'clock saw a school of sperm whales going quick to the South, put off, and made fast to one and drew the iron, the whales went off slowly, we continued chasing and at 12 made fast to another and got her. she was small, though very acceptable. Lat 31.40 N Long 172.00

Sunday September 19th

Still light airs and calm. At 2 P.M. got the whale along side, cut her in and continued boiling. At 4 P.M. saw a ship to the Southward of us, steering to the eastward. Through the night calm. Latter part light breezes from S.E. At 9 P.M. saw whale going quick to the windward, put off, and got one, made fast to another and drew the iron. At 10 got the whale along side, and got clear for cutting. Lat 31.50 N Long 172.20 E

Monday September 20th

Still moderate pleasant weather, employed a cutting. At 1 P.M. saw more whales, put off, with two boats, and chased till two o'clock, but could not get near them, whales were going quick, and very high. At 3 finished cutting. Middle & Latter part calm and pleasant employed a boiling. Lat 32.00 N Long 173.26 E

Tuesday September 21st

First part light airs from North with pleasant weather. At 4 P.M. took a Lunar Observation which gave the Longitude 173.27 East. Middle part light breezes from the S.E. Latter part at 4 P.M. finished boiling. At 8 P.M. fresh breezes from East and squally, employed a stowing down oil. End, light breezes with fair weather. Latitude by obs 32.06 N Long by Lunar 173.24 E