

Coast of Japan

Premarkson Coast Sunday May 15th 1831

First part fair weather, with fine breezes from the Southward steering to the westward. Middle part moderate with foggy. Latter part light airs and cloudy, commenced steering down oil.

Latitude by Obs 29.42 Long by Acc 171.00 East

Monday May 16th

Still light airs with pleasant weather. At sundown finished steering off the main hatch way. Latter part light airs and calm, employed stowing down oil in the fore hold. At noon finished stowing down. Lat 30.06 Long 170.50 E

Tuesday May 17th

First & Middle part fair weather, with moderate variable winds from the Southward. Latter part foggy, at 8 cleared off with fresh breeze from the westward. Lat 30.15 Long 170.40

Wednesday May 18th

First part fine breezes with fair weather. At 4 past 4 pm saw a shoal of Whales on the weather quarter 4 miles off. At 6 pm got near enough, sent the boats after them, but the whales were so wild that they saw, or heard the boats before soon after we left the ship, we chased them till sundown, in the time got a slightly iron into one, which came out before we could get another. In at dark got on board. Through the night foggy with fresh breezes from west. Latter foggy with moderate breezes from west to South. At 11 past 11 cleared off saw a shoal of whales two miles off, to the leeward. Lat 30.15 Long 170.50

Thursday May 19th

When the whales were a mile and a half off lowered the boats, and I think the whales perceived the boats as soon as they left the ship, for the whales altered their course and began to go faster, chased them till 2 o'clock, they would let the boats come within a few yards of them very often, then start quick, till out of the way they finally headed to the windward and were soon out of sight. Middle part fresh breezes from S.W. Latter part strong breezes from S.W. with fog and rain, towards noon it lighted up though cloudy, saw a Whale breach to the windward. Latitude 30.15 Long 170.30 East

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Remarks on board Friday May 20th

All these 24 hours fresh breezes from S.W. to S.E. with hazy weather on the latter part saw a Ship steering to the westward. Latitude by Obs 30.27 Long by Acc 170.22 East

Saturday May 21st

First part of these 24 hours fresh breezes with fair weather steering to the South, wind S.E. Middle part, however too headed to the South. Latter part fresh breezes from S.E. and S.W. steering by the wind to the S.W. At noon observed in the Latitude of 30.14 and found the Ship had made but 13 miles to the South after steering in that direction for 16 hours and have too headed that way 8 hours. The Longitude I am unable to determine, as the Latitude is so much different from my calculation.

Sunday May 22nd

First & Middle part wind S.E. steering by the wind to the South. Latter part wind South with thick smoky weather, so that 4 whales could pass within three miles of the Ship, unseen. Lat by Obs 29.59 Long by Acc 170.00

Monday May 23rd

First part moderate breezes in the S.W. steered S.W. At 3 pm steered North. At sundown no signs of whales, halled by the wind to the Eastward under short sail, weather still thick and smoky. Through the night light airs. Latter part moderate S.W. wind veered to the North with rain, continued to rain and fog till 11, then cleared off in showers and squalls. Latitude by Obs 29.59 South Long by Acc 170.20 East

Tuesday May 24th

First part of the 24 hours calm with thick cloudy weather. Middle part light airs from the North. Latter part gentle breezes from S.W. steering S.W. and West. Lat by Obs 29.40 Long 169.50 East

Wednesday May 25th

First part moderate steered west. Middle part steered to the North, wind S.W. Latter part gentle breezes with pleasant weather saw a Ship off our lee a boiling, she got her signal but we were too far off to distinguish the form of it, the colour was red and white. Lat 29.56 Long by Acc 169.30 E