

Coast of Japan

Remarks on board Wednesday July 20th 1831

Pleasant weather, wind to the Eastward. At 2 p.m. got the whale along side and continued stowing down. Latter part cut in the whale ends with light breezes. Two ships in sight, one off the quarter the other off the weather beam, with all sails set. Latitude by Obs 30.45 Long 161.00 East

Thursday July 21st

All these 24 hours fine breezes from the S.E. with pleasant weather. Employed a boiling on the latter part saw three sail, one of the three was under short sail. Latitude 30.55 Longitude by Obs 160.30 East

Friday July 22nd

Pleasant weather steering to the South. At 2 p.m. spoke the Barque Fortune of Plymouth, 24 months out with 1100 bbls. I went on board and passed the afternoon with Capt Swain, who was quite unwell. Middle part steered to the North. At 11 finished boiling. Latter part steering by the wind to the North, wind East. At 8 passed close to the George & Susan steering to the South with all sail set, they have taken but 80 bbls this season.

Latitude 31.16 Long 161.00 East

Saturday July 23rd

All these 24 hours light breezes from the Eastward with pleasant weather. Latter part engaged stowing down oil. Lat 31.16 Long 161.10 East

Sunday July 24th

First part calm, employed stowing down. Latter part light breezes from West, finished stowing down, and washed off clean, ready for more. Latitude by Obs 30.46 Long by Obs 161.4 East

Monday July 25th

First part pleasant weather steering to the South. saw two ships to windward, one of them a cutting in. Latter part fine breezes from W.S.W. saw three ships. Two of them a boiling. At 11, steering to the North, saw a ship chasing whales. Lat 30.33 Long 162.00 East. Tuesday July 26th At 2 p.m. saw the whale to the windward. At 3 lowered the boat. At 4 made fast and got one large whale. At 5 undrawn got her along side. Latter part strong gales and engaged employed a cutting. Two ships to the windward. Lat 30.22 Long 162.46

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Remarks on board Wednesday July 27th

Still strong gales, with squalls of rain. At 3 p.m. finished cutting, and began to boil. Latter part moderate, wind variable from the westward, made sail and steered to the South. Lat 30.24 Long 162.00

Thursday July 28th

First part light breezes from S.W. with cloudy weather. Employed a boiling. Middle part at 12 took a heavy squall from S.W. with hard rain, it continued raining all night very hard with fresh gales took in the fore sail, hove too, and put out the fires. Latter part at 10 cleared off, but blew very hard up the lee clew of the fore sail and began to boil. Latitude by DR 30.45 Long by DR 162.50 East

Friday July 29th

Still hard gales with a high sea. At 3 p.m. split the fore sail, took it in and fished it. At 5 finished boiling. At sundown the wind moderated. Through the night the ship laboured very hard, the wind was light with a very high irregular swell. Latter part fresh in the P.M. and squally, employed repairing the fore sail and setting up sheet casks. Latitude by Obs 31.00 Long by DR 162.40 East

Saturday July 30th

First part strong breezes from S.E. steering to the S.W. weather squally and very unsettled. Latter part thick cloudy weather employed stowing down oil. Latitude by Obs 31.25 Long 162.43 East

Sunday July 31st

Moderate breezes from South steering to the westward. At 5 p.m. saw a ship off the lee. At sundown finished stowing down. Latter part washed off and got all ready for more. At 10 p.m. spoke the ship John Palmer with 1000 bbls. I went on board and passed the day, ends strong gales and squalls. Lat by Obs 31.15 Long by DR 162.00 East

Monday August 1st

All these 24 hours strong gales and squally wind South and S.E. steering by the wind to the S.W. Blacksmith employed making Cooper's Drives. Latitude by Obs 30.33

Longitude by Lunar 161.46 East