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Decr 25<sup>th</sup> Since the 21<sup>st</sup> inst nothing of any  
Monday - importance has occurred. We have  
since that time had a good breeze from the  
SE and have made good progress to the  
northward our latitude today being 33° 33'  
we yesterday saw a ship steering to the NW  
under double reefed topsails. We also again  
painted the boats and they are now in good  
order. I trust we shall soon have a chance  
of using them. Today is Christmas, and  
recalls to my mind the home which is now  
far behind me.

Decr 27<sup>th</sup> Nothing of much importance has taken  
Wednesday place since the 25<sup>th</sup> yesterday we sent  
mizzen topgallant and royal masts and fore  
royal mast, also main royal yard, and bent  
on mizzen topgallant sail. Our latitude yes-  
terday was 30° 39' and with the wind we  
now have we shall probably run four de-  
grees we have log this morning she was  
then going 9/2 knots, our latitude today was

27° 07'  
Decr 31<sup>st</sup> Since the 27<sup>th</sup> inst, the nothing of any  
importance has occurred. we have since  
then been busy tarring the rigging - winds  
have been light this fair - lat today 20° 52'

Jan 7<sup>th</sup> The last <sup>week</sup> has passed away quite ra-  
1849 - pidly with us. we have had hard  
Sunday work all the time - heaving out in all  
three holds - we made land on Thursday  
and have since been cruising in sight of  
land - the land we made was Peru, we  
also began to stand boats crew watches.

Jan 26<sup>th</sup> I have lately been very negligent a-  
Friday - bout writing up my journal, not having  
added any to it since the 7<sup>th</sup> inst, but I now  
am resolved not to allow myself to be so  
again, and I therefore resume the writing of  
it daily, and will endeavour to be more at-

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tentive than heretofore. Many things have occurred  
since I last had this pleasure, but not having taken  
note of them it may be difficult for me to record  
them all. I will however do my best. From the 1<sup>st</sup>  
inst to the 7<sup>th</sup> we were as I have already said been  
very busy heaving out in the holds; a few days  
after this blackfish were raised from masthead,  
and they being quite numerous and pretty handy  
we put the lines in the boats and lowered for them.  
\* The boat I belonged to, soon got fast to a large  
fish, and upon the fish sounding we found  
that the line was foul, the fish did not however  
sound deep enough to haul out the snarl, and  
the irons having drawn we lost the fish, we  
hailed in the line and coiled it up in the  
stern sheets, without however clearing the snarl,  
in a few moments after we got fast to a still  
larger one, he sounded quite deep and took a good  
deal line, so that when the snarl came to the  
chock it got jammed and the fish pulling  
at the same time the boat was capsized and  
we found ourselves floating on the waters and  
the fish all around us, I immediately swam  
for our boat and was soon safely lodged  
on top of it, the rest of the crew, who rest of  
followed the example and were soon in a  
comparatively safe position. The third mate  
had his arm almost cut off with a lance,  
and so could scarcely swim, he reached the  
boat and held on with one arm, until the  
mate came and picked us up. We were soon  
on board the ship and so ended our first black  
- fishing excursions. Two days after this occur-  
- rence we laid snugly anchored in the fine  
bay of Santa about 3 miles distant from  
the little town of the same name. We laid  
here a week, and each watch had three days  
of liberty, which was did us all good. Santa  
is a small sea port on the Coast of Peru, and has