

December 18, 20

On the 11th we were in lat 80 South Diego Ramirez bearing N. - here we had head winds which obliged us to lay to for 4 or 5 days together the weather being extremely cold with frequent squalls of hail & rain made it very disagreeable - we however had one thing in our favour which was long days - the sun rose at 2 o'clock & set at 10 minutes & ten minutes & any part of the night we could see to read the smallest print in book - From the 11th to the 25th we had all kind of weather but generally for the days were not make but 10 degrees of lat - we saw plenty of porpoises & many whales but no sperm - we also saw great numbers of porpoises off the Cape & frequently caught them - their flesh seems like beef & when well cooked is equally as good as mutton - their marrow cannot be distinguished from a hog's - the 25th being Christmas we had nothing remarkable - The remainder of December we had rather better weather & began to think of whaling

January 1821

January commenced with pleasant weather & fair wind in the morning sent up the topgallant yards fore & aft - here the weather began to grow more moderate as we got further to the northward & all hands were busily employed in fitting the ship for pleasant weather & whaling - On the 2nd discovered land on the coast of Chili supposed it to be St. Maria - the morning sent up the royal masts & rigged out the spirit sail - on the 3rd got the anchors on the lines expecting to go in to Valparaiso - at 9 A.M. in lat 35° saw sperm whales below the boats & but after then at 10 the main boat got fast to one - the Capt. went up & killed him - at 12 minutes got him alongside the ship & began to cut him in - got the ~~water~~ blubber off the body & sunset except about 10 barrels which sunk with the ~~car~~ carcass owing to the tassel slipping out while hoisting in a piece - next morning got the head in & began to try & trying it was indeed the best of the crew that were not used to it