

July 1821

On the 14th we were in lat 36.41. long 170. Upward of 25 thousand miles from home & at least 1500 miles from any land - in the morning the crew saw a all of them being born spirited not having seen the spout of a sperm whale for a fortnight - our Capt being part of the quaker the anniversary of American Independence was like to pass of very dull - had not a whole of sperm whales bore in sight in the afternoon which changed the scene - materially - we lowered the boats & went among them with alacrity expecting to celebrate the day in a manner agreeable to our present situation - but an accident happened which soon frustrated our plans - the main boat fastened to a small whale & in the act of lowering him he struck her under the stern with his flukes & in an instant made a complete wreck of her - he then shot a head & gave her the second blow under the bow

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which obliged the crew to leave her with all possible dispatch the store boat being fortunately near. hooked up the crew & took her to the store boat the launch boat went along side the whale which lay spouting with as much composure as if nothing had happened & killed him with a single lance - we got him along side the ship together with the store boat about 8 o'clock in the evening - the boat steerer got his leg considerably hurt by a splinter - which was the only one that received any material injury - The next morning cut him in in the afternoon saw more whales lowered the boats & killed 2 of them - we also lowered several loose ones which went off spouting blood & which we had every reason to believe could not live long - night coming on we were not able to keep the run of them - The next day at 2 P.M. saw a dead whale lowered the boat & found him along side the ship - at sunset saw another - lowered a boat & having put him along side the ship also