

July 1821

On the 13th the wind shifted from S.W. where it had been blowing for three weeks without intermission - to N.W. - in the afternoon squared the yards & stood to the S.W.ward - On the 14th at 8 A.M. saw whales lowered the boats & killed 3 of them - towed them to the ship & by night had them cut in & began to boil - On the 15th had a gale of wind which obliged us to put out the fires - The next morning clear away pleasant saw a large whale put off & pursued to him with four boats before we were able to lunge him he started to windward & ran about 20 miles with such velocity that we were not able to get fairly along side of him once - for upwards of an hour we were out of sight of the ship - after being lost to him about 3 hours during which time he baffled our utmost skill in attempting to get along side of him we thought it expedient to try some new method to stop his head way - we accordingly hauled up as near as we could without his perceiving us & set to

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cutting his flukes with the boat shaves which soon produced the desired effect - after five or six severe wounds he stopped short & began to fight - we then rowed along side of him with all three boats & in about half an hour turned him up - at 12 M. an Indian had him cabled along side the ship - in the afternoon cut off the head & bore in the blubber - in the evening a gale of wind sprang up which lasted with violence 48 hours - we reeled out the lead the length of 2 havers & rode it out quite comfortable - On the 18th the gale abated & we were in the road - had rainy disagreeable weather for two days - On the 20th in lat 35° N. long 169° E saw whales lowered the boats & chased them about three hours but they were going so fast to windward that we could not overtake them - so gave up the chase & returned to the ship - On the 21st saw a small whale lowered the boats & killed him - The next day saw more whales lowered the boats &