

Ship St Peter Friday April 4th 1851 Foggy hills
This morning sighted Mahe and a few other islands. Boating about
to the distant nearly 50 leagues. The wind shifted during the night
to N. by W. at 3 in the morning put her on the larboard tack and
stood close hauled N. by E. Repaired the other cutting fall
towards night the wind hauled and we held course N. by E.

Saturday April 5th Lat 4.19 S
The weather is very hot and sultry. The wind continues light
steering a course N. by E. During the night the current set us close
to the Northward. We were on the banks nearly all day. At 3 P.M. lowered the
larboard boat to catch fish and caught 8 dozen large and small coming
aboard at 4 past 4. Just as we got aboard a fresh breeze sprang up but at
sunset it fell to a dead calm. It is about the change of the moon.

Sunday April 6th Lat 4.57 S
Just after 1 in the morning the mate turned out and found we were in
shallow water he began fishing and like massa like man the water turned
to and began to fish. They fished till breakfast time but while at breakfast
we drifted into deep water and was obliged to stop. When I turned out
at 6 it was a perfect calm there was not even a cat's paw on the water.
A white sand bar to be seen interspersed with coral among which millions
of fish of different kinds might be seen besides the water was fairly black
with sharks. At 11 a light wind sprang up from E. S. E. came to on the starboard
tack steering close hauled. At 3 P.M. night the wind hauled into the East
keeping the course N. E. At sunset took in light sail. At 10 came round the
point.

Monday April 7th
At 9 in the morning laid the main yard aback but at sunrise heaved
forward again standing W. Saw a bird on the weather bow at 8. About 11
P.M. lowered for Blackfish and chased them till 1 P.M. without success. A
little before sunset a school of sperm whales did not lower.

Tuesday April 8th
Almost a calm. At 8 A.M. the old man went down in the waist boat for
Blackfish. He was not down more than an hour when he pulled a whale
The colors were immediately set as a signal and the old man was back to
the ship in a jiffy. About 9 past 9 the whale was 3 miles to windward lower
and pulled for them. It being a perfect calm and sailing mason
of the question. The weather was intensely hot and the sun poured down his
rays as if it was shining for a wager. The whales were going rather fast and
were obliged to pull with all our strength to gain on them. At last about
noon Mr. Ryder fastened to a large bull head he sounded heaving taking
out both his lines & short warps and the boat was up. The starboard boat was
nearest to him and when we came up we pulled but the boatster only
him. Then we pulled for nearly 3 hours with a hard stroke on warps and the
other till the men were nearly exhausted and Mr. Ryder signalled us
and we ran down where he was. His men were nearly all fresh for
after he lost his line he lay till most of the time in a boat and part of his
got into our boat and into the waist boat and pulled the midship
overboard being away. At about an hour the starboard boat got fast to
another bull. In a few moments Mr. Lee fastened to the same whale and we
turned him up in an hour. Mr. Ryder then sent his boat to the ship for water
for we had not had a drop in the boats for nearly 3 hours and the men
were nearly choked with thirst. In a short time Mr. Lee started for the ship
which was 10 miles off and reached it just as the sun was setting. The
other boat returned with water and a light breeze springing up the
ship ran down and took the whale alongside about 10 in the evening.
This is the hardest day's work that I ever did my eyes are nearly blinded
out of my head and my face is almost a perfect blister. In killing the
whale the officers was so tired that one would work a while and then
the other would take it. In fact only one was nearly done out.

Ship St Peter Wednesday April 9th 1851 Foggy hills
Commenced cutting in at daylight and finished just as 8 bells
was struck at noon. At 8 P.M. raised a whale again lowered and Carter
dusted at one but it was a bad chance and he missed him. Mr. Lee
eyes are so sore to day that he is fairly blind and the captain went
in his boat. Mr. Ryder got out a new line for his boat. At 8 P.M.
In the evening started the work. began on the head.

Thursday April 10th
Continued boiling. Raised whales again at 8 A.M. Lowered and
chased them out of the sight of the ship. Carter struck a whale
in the head and the iron drew out a little while and gave it up
being about 60 miles from the ship which we reached at sunset.
The captain went in the waist boat again. Mr. Lee being nearly blind.
The wind was very light and we had several showers during the day.

Friday April 11th
Calm most of the day. Finished boiling and cleared up decks at 1
P.M. All hands are glad that we are through for we have had 3 days
very hard pulling besides being up half the night boiling which makes it
much more tedious. Most of their faces are badly burnt by the sun and
their eyes are so sore that they can hardly see. My own eyes are good
yet but my face is burned considerably. The weather is light but little otherwise.

Saturday April 12th
The weather continues very calm and hot. did nothing but wash clothes
and cooper the casks at the ship. Raced in to the southward.

Sunday April 13th
There is a very light breeze from the Westward steering southward & with a
little before noon saw a whale breach and later flukes. At 2 o'clock
saw 1 saw spouts 4 miles off lowered away and pulled till almost
sunset when the larboard boat went on and dusted but missed him.
A Barge has been in sight all day to windward. She bore down for
the whale and lowered 3 boats. She was the Hope of A. B. Bedford 8
months out with 430 sperm. She had letters for us and the mate
went aboard. In the evening took a light shower.

Monday April 14th
The weather continues very calm. Coopered casks for stowing oil.
At 3 P.M. the Hope was 4 miles off on the weather bow. She set her colors
and was lowered. The starboard boat and the cap'n went aboard.

Tuesday April 15th
Light breeze from S. by W. steering W. by N. Stowed down 800 lbs of oil in
the fore hold. Finished stowing and broke out rigging from between decks
from casks 1 & 2. Stowed it in the sail pen. Finished at 7 P.M.

Wednesday April 16th
In the morning the wind was moderate from N. by W. steering S. The
weather was cloudy with some rain. Sighted Donny island at 6 A.M.
on the weather bow. It looks as fresh as ever and is a welcome sight.
As it I have spent a few pleasant hours and around it we have
taken considerable oil. Afternoon pleasant wind light & variable
steering westerly. In the evening the wind hauled and we steered S.

Thursday April 17th
Drawed and spliced rope & saw. Strapped the main brace blocks
and repaired trying gear. The wind is still light and variable from
southward and Westward. At 8 P.M. At 1 saw something white
about 4 miles ahead and it excited the captain's curiosity so much
that he ran off towards it but on coming up with it at 5 lowered it
was a large log covered with white boobies. It spouted for 8 miles
N. of Donny island. Lowered the larboard boat and pulled school
of turtles & landed about 8. Cashed around till about midnight
when we got a hot full of sleep and boiled them for supper after
hot a turn in under the stars to sleep and were a family again.