

we took in the topgallants. About 3 o'clock in the morning the 4th Mate Mr Lambert went over in the head for a temporary purpose when he discovered something he called porpoises but in a moment we neared it and found it to be a whale and was heading directly for us and struck the ship fore against the cutwater and the shock was so great that it awok some of the watch. The paper under the ^{stair} and struck the rudder and the man to the wheel become frightened and asked what he should do he was told to hold on hard the whale came up to the windward and capured a little and went off slowly he was probably hurt bad. The perished the ship just before she struck him and cut out his flooks which frightened Mr Lamb but he left us without doing any injury. It was supposed to be a sperm whale.

Saturday March 12th

Commenced with a strong wind from the N.E.W. with continued to increase till we was obliged to take in sail to a close reefed main top sail and Mr Spencer during which time the rain fell copiously. Steering by the wind to the W. in course of the night shifted to the N.W. and then to the N. The wind abated ^{about} set double reefed top sail Mr. sail and jib. Lat 48. 54 S. Long 78. 00

Sunday March 13th

To day we have had a mixture of weather as usual from a double reefed top sail breeze to a whole sail breeze with some rain but the latter was quite pleasant. Wind varying from a N.E. to S.W. Course N.W. Spent another sabbath with many pleasing thoughts of home. Go on.

Monday March 14th

First and middle parts of fresh breeze from the N.W. started broad to to W and pleasant with the exception of a few light squalls of rain. About 6 o'clock in the morning we was struck with a heavy squall let go all three of the top sails halcyards clewed them down and close reefed the fore and main and double reefed the main and furled the main sail and jib. We have not got out of Cape Horn weather but we are patient for we know it will not always be May. Go on.

Off from Fernandez

Tuesday March 15th 1853

We are all much encouraged to day because of a fair wind coming in we have not had before in a good while. Commenced with a very strong wind from the N.E.W. and continued to hulk till it got N. and then it has stopped to our great satisfaction. Steering N.E.W. We ran with double reefed M. top sail and close reefed fore top sail about 12 hours when we let out the reef on M. top sail we have had topgallant sail and fore top sail standing sail out with a heavy sea yet we have made 219 miles of latitude that is 9 1/2 knots the hour. Saw Blackfish Lat 42. 43. S.

Wednesday March 16th

The wind continued to blow from the S. it was rather squally the first part but the latter part it has been remarkably fine the wind light. Steering N.W.W. It is so pleasant we could not get along without doing a little work. Lat 42. 43. S. Long

Thursday March 17th

This has been as pleasant as could be wished we have had the wind about stern. Steering N.W.W. In the evening the foremast ^{hands} gave a grand concert of vocal and instrumental music which was very pleasing to all. I went out to hear from them often. The cooper and myself repaired an old boat for a dredge boat. We are in hopes to load her with fish and fruit at the Island Juan Fernandez soon. Men at the mast head. Go on. Lat 37. 58. S.

Friday March 18th

We have been favoured all day with a fair wind from the S. with a few squalls of rain. Steering N.W.W. Saw a ship supposed to be a homeward bounder. Lat 34. 28. S.

Saturday March 19th

The wind still continues to the S. and fine weather stuck a shank. Steering N.W.W. At 11 in the afternoon saw the Island of Juan Fernandez off the Starboard bow. We have been much while going along great calculations on touching at the Island for the purpose of getting fruit and fish but the wind is so fair and strong it was thought best not to stop. Weather disapp. it was some pointed. Lat 31. 25 S. All the watch busy.