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Laying off and on at Cape St. Lucas the 3rd time
January 1st 1854

To add to this noise there was an old Mexican who occupied a bed in one corner of the room kept up a continual snoring and as the back door was left open dogs and cats were running in and out and to judge from noise the dog spent the most of the night in catching rats which probably constituted the greater part of his canine lordship's food. I suppose this dog to be very large for I heard him shake his leg often and his ears made a great noise so his ears must have been large or his ears were greatly out of proportion to his body. At daylight the morning dawned to our relief. I took a walk alone before it was fairly light and was soon surprised to find that I had invaded somebody's sleeping apartment. I did not discover it till I had nearly stepped on them when I heard a female voice. You may suppose I started back astonished and examined the premises. There was four posts driven in the ground and some brush thrown over the top and these people reaping the benefit of the shelter. I then shaped my course toward some houses a few hundred yards distant but I soon found the people asleep out door under a kind of piazza built for the purpose. This appears to me a strange fashion as the nights are cool and a heavy dew.

Monday 2nd. There is no kind of business done here. I have hardly seen ^{man} to work since I have been here so there is nothing to be seen of a business character although the soil requires great care to produce enough for the comfortable support of the people. Mr. Ritchie has a large house but poorly finished, has an interesting looking wife Mexican by birth though light coloured but rather fat for warm weather. She is about 19 years of age and has a baby 7 months old very pretty quiet and cunning. Mr. Ritchie is an Englishman but has been here 18 years and is now rich he owns a large farm and it is said by Paine that he has one thousand head of cattle and if any one should look in the different yards at night and see the horses, cows, calves, sheep, ~~hens~~ goats and kids it would not take long to make them believe him rich and they would wonder on looking at the land where they find enough for them to eat. His garden is supplied ^{with water} by artificial means.

At 10. The returned to the ship and found that a very large school of sperm whales had been seen and chased them with 3 boats from morning till night but could not catch them. They set the ship's signals fore and aft for us but we supposed they were sleeping her up for the new year. The whales banded to the W and out the

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Wednesday January 3rd 1854

At the 2nd night on shore we slept better for in addition to the rats hide and roles of leather we had our coats laid and a log of wood about 4 ft long for a pillow in place of the roles of leather. The roles of leather wilted down before morning the night before so at bed time I went out in the back yard and found the above mentioned log which was long enough for all of us and if it had not been for fleas we should have rested very well to what we did the night before. Enough said about the hide bed I was glad to get to my good berth in the good ship Taraloga but shall be gladder to get into a good bed with my little wife. So we have commenced the new year. Saw blackfish. I suppose our folks have received letters by this

Wednesday January 4th

Slight breeze from the W. and fine weather working up along shore. At breakfast time saw something to the leeward that was called a boat we ran for it. As we approached it it was supposed to be a ^{and} ~~boat~~ ^{school} of blackfish to the windward but we finally concluded it was an old stump of a tree so we halloed up for the blackfish and lowered for them and the captain carried a bottle of oil and when we got near them he emptied the contents in the water with a view of stopping the fish but the bottle had no charm for the fish there were probably ^{thirty} ~~thirty~~ ^{thirty} returned at 9. Saw a humpback and a schooner.

Thursday January 5th

Wind W. W. W. beating to the windward along shore. Pumped the blackfish oil from the oil casks into water casks and stowed in the blubber room for the presant occupied the rest of the time in picking oakum. No whales yet.

Friday January 6th

Wind changed from W. N. W. to W. The ^{Islands} in sight a ship also steering toward them. Engaged with the main yard aback through the night. At daylight squared the yards steering Southward. The ship in sight to the leeward and appeared to be manouevring for whales or something else so we steered for her and soon found he was blackfishing. So we took dinner and made preparation for helping him for our own interest. Lat 23. 14 N. Long 114. 25 W.