

24th Light wind - fine weather. We have got a steady breeze, which if it holds, will bring us up to the Kings Hill. Group in a few days. Our big little birds are quite domesticated and seem in no hurry to depart. Lat. 241 N. Long. 178.14 E.

25th Light wind - fine weather. Got up the cutting falls and re-strapped the blocks &c. Calm during the night. Lat. 2.14 N. Long. 176.47 E.

26th Calm. Very hot. Mended main topgallant sail. About 11 1/2 P.M. the 2d mate took a boat crew and started off after a school of black fish that lay about a half-mile from the ship. But you might as well have tried to catch a weasel asleep as to get near them. We returned to the ship after an hour's absence. A light breeze sprang up at 4 P.M. which continued through the night. Heading S.E. by S. Lat. 125 N. Long. 176.16 E.

27th Light breeze - fine weather. Heading S.E. by S. Lat. 44 m. N. Long. 176.16 E.

28th Light breeze - fine weather. Got up mizen topmast and topgallant weather backstay. One of our little birds left us this morning. He probably got a snuff of the land, which is not far off. Lat. 35 m. N. Long. 176.22 E. Sunset, set boat's crew watches and shortened sail for a cruise. Tacked twice during the night, working to the Eastward.

29th As the day broke we saw Perotis island off our lee bow plain in sight and as soon as the boat crew manned the mast heads a school sperm whales were raised between us and the land, not a mile off. We lowered away the boats and were after them before sunrise. The natives, seeing the ship, had already shoved off their canoes and were putting out to the ship. They had galled the whales with their canoes so that we could not get near them. After chasing them three hours, the old man finding it difficult to keep the natives from boarding the ship set the signal to come aboard. When we got aboard the natives crowded over the side by dozens to dispose their hats, mats, fowl, shells, &c. This continued till about 12 past 10 when we lowered again for the whales, after driving all the natives from the ship. We pulled up to windward, the starboard boat taking the lead and keeping it till the whales came up directly ahead of us not a ship's length off. It being our chance, we motioned the other boats to lie still. There they lay rolling and voyging in the water almost too lazy to breathe. We paddled till we got behind them, 4 in number, then went on and struck