

Thursday 5th Feby 1857

On the 5th of last month we came in sight of the Island of Masafuero - the island appears to be 20 or 30 miles in circumference very high out of water probably 5 or 600 ft above the sea. The sea in the near the island is filled with fish: of ~~and~~ two boats were sent off about 8 o'clock this morning.

While waiting for the boats the Capt. shot a fin back whale with the bomb lance: the whale was ~~just~~ about a ship's length ahead: he dies instantly on receiving the lance rolled fin out, ~~the Capt~~ but sank before a boat could be lowered. The Capt. said he would have made 10 or 12 bbls.

About 2 o'clock the boats returned with a quantity of fish of all kinds - they lasted about two days and were tolerable good eating.

Yesterday the 4th Feby we came in sight of Juan Fernandez and to day it is out of sight again - no whale yet.

A merchantman is in sight on the weather bow.

Tuesday 17th Feby 1857

The ship is now within about 100 miles of the coast of Chili, in a few days it is thought that we shall go into the port of Talcahuana.

On the morning of the 13th inst a large sunfish was ~~caught~~ killed and brot aboard: he was said to be of extraordinary size: he must have measured 8 or 9 ft in length and 6 or 7 in breadth: his shape was something like this:  the liver is valuable: a scap tub was filled with it and it was put in the sun that the oil might drain out. ~~In the rest of the body appeared to be~~ a kind of elastic and was white as glass.

In the afternoon we had still better luck: a school of blackfish was pursued with the boats and two killed and hauled aboard.

As this fish is a kind of whale and as I am not yet able to relate from eyewitness the process of tamping converting a sperm whale into oil, I will try to give some account of the blackfish's ~~capture~~ and of the operations performed on the blackfish.

The swift gliding boat