

1842 Journal of Ship William Thompson.

Thursday December 22

This day commences with strong breezes from E. and N.E. running about 7 knots. During A.M. saw a great number of porpoises tried to get some but did not succeed. There a number of sea birds about the Cape Horn Pigeons, Gulls and variety of others. At some of yesterday's porpoises, it went. Line, which a porpoise this morning. The line did not hold. John did not live long the men from the Mast had seen him die only a short distance from the ship.

Latitude 44° 25' S
Longitude 53° 32' W

Friday December 23

Light breezes from the North. Steering S.W. by S. Struck a porpoise and got him about 5 P.M. it proved to be a very large one. It will make 2 or 3 gallons of oil. He has gone well through his back he died almost immediately. We are now in a proper place for Whales and have the finest weather, but they come not. Remick is poorly again, it must be some old complaint as he says he is just about the same.

Latitude 45° 20' N
Longitude 43° 05' S

Saturday December 24

Light breezes from N. The weather is beautifully fine for this time of year. It is the continual theme on board that one of the men ever seen such mild weather for this

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time and season, we could not have had better or finer time for Whales but none came, all hands are getting quite tired of Porpoise and wish once more for Janak, being all day copying the ship's sails, mending. I saw sail managed to find work for all hands. The Cook got the Rheumatism not off and got a mate, Mr Philips who he says is the only one fit to wash up and so forth.

Longitude 57° 14' 15" W
Latitude 44° 30' S

Sunday December 25

Light winds from the N. Steering S.W. by S. Struck a porpoise and got him about 5 P.M. it proved to be a very large one. It will make 2 or 3 gallons of oil. He has gone well through his back he died almost immediately. We are now in a proper place for Whales and have the finest weather, but they come not. Remick is poorly again, it must be some old complaint as he says he is just about the same.

Longitude 59° 38' W
Latitude 45° 6' S

Monday December 26

Strong breezes from N.W. Steering S.W. by Compass, thick foggy weather, cannot see 5 miles from the ship. Sounded this morning at 10 A.M. bottom. Light patterns again at 12 o'clock. Light gun land, also at 6 P.M. 75 L.S. at 8 P.M. 75 L.S. sailing and 9 P.M. all the morning. Saw a great number of sea birds.