

1843 Journal of Ship William Thompson

Jan 16 going off in fine style, If this wind lasts until tomorrow we will bid Cape Horn go to Grap, Remick is much better hope to get him up when we get into warm weather, all hands are well and keep their appetites wonderful.

Longitude 77° 18' W
Latitude 54° 58' S

Sunday January 15 - 1843

Wind stills blows from N.W. Steering N.W. going eight knots full, Third mate to day undertook to kill a Porpoise got out on the Martingale and got a complete ducking and no Porpoise which the Voyage did not like for he said he had his mouth rigged for Balls in the morning. Gaffard getting much better expects he will be out with the summer birds, Remick, Babbet and Baldwin will also soon make their debut on the boards soon, we are now nearly round Cape Horn, within sight of our blubber and right whale quarry. Longitude 78° 18' W
Latitude 53° 38' S

Monday January 16 - 1843

Light winds from the land N.W. cannot get a S wind to take us away from this dismal place, there are plenty more here to keep us company, that is some comfort, at least, his sick, slight heaving the same way with us. Saw a Fin back this afternoon under the stern he followed us for some time, Mr Babbet made his first appearance this morning, Mr

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Remick will also soon come out, we have other stars in preparation and notice will be given to the Public of their first appearance.

Longitude 79° 33' W
Latitude 53° 27' S

Tuesday Jan 17 - 1843

Placid breeze from N.W. fair wind at last. Steering N.W. sailing ten 1/2 knots. Every Person is delighted to get out of this damp mucky weather. So much to do and cannot get on, fine day it is almost too bad, saw three Chais of some thing but could not distinguish of what kind they belonged to, the weather seems to affect all hands, they look so good, merriment and full and hail with better spirits than I have ever seen them do before.

Longitude 79° 54' W
Latitude 52° 37' S

Wednesday Jan 18 - 1843

Wind still continues from S.W. we are going at a fine rate hope soon to be in better weather, we have been a little run by a ship in a light breeze but as soon as the wind sprung up she went astern. Fast all hands are well or getting so fast. Remick improved all the time, and soon intends coming on duty. Saw a great many right Whale Porpoises tried to get one but did not succeed.

Longitude 79° 45' W
Latitude 49° 50' S