

1843
Jan
Journal of Ship William Thompson

Tuesday January 24 1843

Mind still continues
from the N, Light breeze and
splendid weather, All hands on deck
got a New Bow Boat on the ground.
Expect some dreadful havoc
to be made among the blubber
with it, Gifford made his first
appearance to say he is getting
much better, Look down the Stove
looks quite gloomy with out it
Law found I still expect there
must be Whales about these
digings

Longitude 78° 12' W
Latitude 39° 24' S

Wednesday January 25 1843

Wind as yesterday
came a little round to the S
during the night. It is West again
this morning, all hands on
deck getting Whale gear out,
and clearing and fixing the
Boats, The Cooper Minor making
Oms and doing a lot of work
in copper, the Merrick setting up
digging and putting on ballings
which he was obliged to take off
again very much to his annoyance
saw a Linnæus which came within
Eight Miles of the New Chronometer

Longitude 78° 9' W
Latitude 38° 54' S

Thursday January 26 1843

Light breeze from
the West, the wind does not change
a point in twenty four hours, we
are now on good Whale ground
but have not had a sight of one
as yet, we saw a quantity of squid
this morning, Passed sail going
South at 11 AM, saw three
backs heading N. All hands on

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deck overhauling Whale gear and rigging
The weather is really delightful, Pacific is
the true name of this vast Ocean, the
Sun when setting is truly magnificent
I never beheld so beautiful a sight.

Longitude 78° 31' W
Latitude 34° 36' S

Friday January 27 1843

Wind still southerly
fine weather at 4 A. M. raised.
Whales on our Lee Bow, Let
down all the Boats, the wind
being fair the all sailed away
in fine still, the Spum. Whales
went down before they could
reach them, but when they
came up the Vitons boat
was about half a mile from
them, she pulled up and struck
one, she splashing and jumping
I never beheld the other boats
coming down came up all
put down into him, the boat
hove up and proved to
be a 50 by Bull at 9 AM.
we had him fast alongside
and by noon we had cut
in



Longitude 77° 53' W
Latitude 34° 38' S

Saturday January 28 1843

Light breeze from
SW. all smoke and confusion
the By hooks are blazing away in
a very workman-like manner
and seem to furnish a sudden
reappearance of blubber, all
hands on deck, you hardly
know one from the other their
faces are as black as jet, they
will make about 50 by, fine
smooth weather and just enough
of wind to make the work man-