

1843 Journal of Ship William Thompson
February

Hands on duty, except Gifford, who remains about the same. Think we must put him ashore, Steward hopes to be about soon again. The weather is some what cloudy this morning, hope it will clear up so we can catch a Mesp of fish.

Longitude 79° 26' W
Latitude 26° 24' S

Tuesday February 3 1843

Light winds from S and S during the day. Cloudy weather, at eight A.M. Land was seen. It is a high head and at four P.M. came in full view of St. Felix. We let down the waist board and went on shore to fish. We remained about an hour during which we caught a good Mesp of yellow-tails, enough for all hands. St. Felix is a barren rock with out a particle of vegetation on it and seemed to have been pushed up by some convulsion of Nature.

Lat 24.20 S
Long 80.05 West

Saturday February 4 1843

We are now in the trade winds sailing along smoothly. About four or five knots. Bent up our main royal mast which make things look better in that respect. At 6 A.M. saw a school of sperm whales from mast head going to windward like the Devil. Took in the Larders and tried to bear up but in less than an hour the men only of sight, at 8.30 Lacked and Doubt I by 6.

Longitude 80° 7' W
Latitude 23° 3' S

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Sunday February 5 1843

Strong Trades and fine weather, all hands engaged in setting up rigging. Broke out the sail room and cleaned the big works, all ready for a whale to day which we will no doubt get, Sunday being a very lucky day. The ship looks beautifully clean, no one would think of the deck every being covered with blubber. This is the Beauty of Sperm Whaling.

Longitude 80° 17.45 W
Latitude 20° 40' S

Monday February 6 1843

Strong Trade and delightful weather, all hands at work at the rigging. Turning in, have not seen a whale of any kind for some days. Struck a Porpoise this morning and got him. He was a very poor one. We had the Liver at Breakfast. It went very fine. Philips is quite unwell he got one of my doses, which consisted of some castor oil a little Colaptes and plenty of Eps. Salts. The Carpenter is trying to make the choquet But could not. The Cooper has been all day Coopering Oil.

Longitude 80° 39' W
Latitude 18° 20' S

Tuesday February 7 1843

Light Trades, very fine weather, all hands turning in rigging. No whales and such beautiful weather. It is indeed a pity, an immense number of Ript Jacks caught.