

Journal for the Barque Hector

Nov 8th 1842 Tuesday morning the wind still blowing a very heavy gale from the southward with a very heavy sea on at midday the wind blowing a hurricane in the afternoon the wind still blowing fair from the same quarter in the evening the wind died away some the sea went down.

Nov 9th Wednesday morning fair and pleasant with a light breeze from the southward and westward steering north and by west in the afternoon the wind still the same about 3 o'clock we saw whales breaching just as we were wearing ship we stood for them awhile and then gave them up the wind began to blow hard from the northward and we took in the spanker and jib we closed reefed the fore and main topsail and set the main stay sail.

Nov 10th Thursday morning the wind still blew the same we made sail steering south west in the afternoon the wind died away calm we made sail on the ship we raised spouts of our main bow we hove back the main yard but they were jammed.

Nov 11th Friday morning fair pleasant with a light breeze from the northward steering south west of river le plate we raised 3 sails in sight in the afternoon we passed a brig the Schooner Brazilian Colours and then we passed a small schooner and a large ship we hoisted our Colours and the Schooner Teanish Colours.

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Nov 12th 1842 Saturday morning cloudy and windy from the southward we are cruising of river le plate for sperm whales we saw a sail of our lee bow in the afternoon we shortened sail about 5 o'clock the wind began to blow fresh from the southward with rain.

Nov 13th Sunday morning the wind still blowing from the southward very hard of river le plate accompanied with cold heavy rains very squally we set the main stay sail blowing harder and harder in the afternoon the wind still blowing from the southward with heavy squalls of rain about 1 o'clock the iron knees that holds the tiller block broke of and the slightly injured one man and 3 o'clock we shook one reef out the main topsail and so ended the day.

Nov 14th Monday morning clear with cold winds blowing from the southward we are steering on the wind of river le plate we set the fore topsail shook one reef out the main topsail and set the jib in the afternoon we set the main sail and spanker and main top gallant sail about 4 o'clock we raised a spout of our lee bow we kept of and it turned out to be a fine back and we raised a more sight a head of the ship and so ended the day.

Nov 15th Tuesday morning fair and pleasant with a light breeze from the northward steering south toward round Cape Horn we saw large Right whales close to the ship and plenty of hump back whale spouting all around the ship in the afternoon we sent down the fore top gallant sail so ended the day.