

From Hong Kong Toward, the Arctic, in May 1851.

Friday May the 2nd 1851

Commences with a strong gale from the S.W. attended with a thick Snow Storm. the Ship lying to under the fore sail & fore top mast stay sail & Double reefed main top sail, at 1.30 P.M. the gale increasing, took in the fore sail & close reefed the main top sail, the middle & latter part the wind and weather much the same
Lat by Obs 53.05 North Long by Obs 164.10 East

Saturday May the 3rd

Commences with a strong gale from the S.W. attended with Snow & a turbulent sea, the Ship lying to heading to the S.W. the middle part moderate breezes & cold cloudy weather, at 4 A.M. saw the land bearing per compass S.W. Dist 15 leagues at 5 A.M. wore ship to the Eastward and set the top sail, jib & fore sail, at 8 A.M. calm & pleasant, & put the starboard, waist & bow boats on the cranes, Employed mending the starboard boat, at 10 A.M. a light breeze from the South kept the ship S.E., man'd the mast heads & set the main top gallant sail, the ice & snow melting from the rigging quite fast
Lat by Obs 52.53 North Long by Chron 160.00 East

Sunday May the 4th

Commences with a light breeze from the South and fine weather, course S.E., all hands busy fitting the boats at 6 P.M. set the fore & mizen top gallant sails, same time kept the ship S.E. by S., at 10 P.M. the breeze hauled to the S.E.
at 3 A.M. a light breeze from the East & foggy, & at 4 A.M. set the main sail, jib & flying jib, heading to the S.W., at 7 the fog cleared & man'd the mast heads, at 9 saw a sail to the North at 11.30 saw a Polar Whale going quick to the Westward, & lowered three boats and chased him without success
Lat by Obs 53.24 North Long by Obs 160.30 East

Monday May the 5th

Commences with a light air from the East and fair weather, the ship with all sail set heading S.W. at 2 P.M. saw a Right Whale going quick to the Eastward, lowered three boats and chased one hour without success, through the night a light breeze from the S.E. & cloudy weather, at 7 A.M. a breeze sprang up from the S.E. & kept the ship S.E. same time set in thick with snow at 10 saw a quantity of small pieces of drift ice, at 12 M. it lighted up to the South, and saw the land to the Westward 35 miles off, at 12 the ice appears in larger fields & more packed
Lat by Obs 55.11 North Long by Chron 162.00

Tuesday May the 6th

Commences with a light breeze from the S.E. & the weather thick & cold, the ship with all sail set steering S.E. a quantity of field ice in sight, at 1 P.M. put the starboard boat out on the cranes, at 2 P.M. the weather cleared off & found ourselves surrounded with ice, hauled on the wind heading to the Eastward at 2.30 came up with a large field of packed ice & tacked ship to the S.W., at 3 tacked again to the Eastward, a passage appearing to the S.E., taking short tacks to work through it, saw one Polar Whale in among the ice, a ship in sight to the S.E. at 4 P.M. calm & pleasant, through the night calm & extremely cold, at day light found the Ocean frozen over with ice 6 inch thick, and a large field of packed ice to the S.E., distant 3 miles, the land in sight to the S.W. Dist 30 miles, saw several Polar Whales in the ice the latter part baffling air from all points of the compass, taking advantage of every calm jaw to get to the S.E. to clear the land & ice
Lat by Obs 54.09 North Long by Chron 161.00 East

Wednesday May the 7th

Commences calm & pleasant, at 2 P.M. a light air from the S.E., the ship with all sail set heading along the land to the S.W., at 4 calm again, at 6 P.M. took a light from the East & braced up sharp heading S.E., through the night baffling air mostly from the Eastward, at 4 A.M. calm & pleasant, the latter part calm & pleasant, a field of ice to the S.E. extending along to the Eastward no land in sight nor any thing of the whale kind.
Lat by Obs 53.58 North Long by Obs 161.15 East

Thursday May the 8th

Continues calm & pleasant cool weather, at 6 P.M. a light air from the S.E., the ship with all sail set heading East a field of ice in sight to the S.E. 6 miles off, at 10 P.M. a light breeze from the S.W. & kept the ship S.E. to clear the ice and at 1 A.M. kept off East, at 3 A.M. the breeze left us becalmed again at day light the ice in sight extending to the Eastward as far as can be seen from aloft, the latter part calm cold & cloudy at 12 M. saw the land to the North Dist 40 miles
Lat by Obs 53.50 North Long by Obs 161.25 East

Friday May the 9th Commences calm & pleasant, at 2 P.M. saw three Right Whales, & lowered four boats & chased until 6 P.M. without success, through the night calm & pleasant at 4 A.M. took a light breeze from the North & kept the ship East along the edge of the ice, at 9 saw a Whale & chased without success the latter part a light from the North & pleasant cold weather the East point of the ice bearing S.E. Dist 4 miles
Lat by Obs 53.39 North Long by Chron 161.26 East