

Bark Mermaid, Cruising for Whales.

Dec 6th 1869 This day Comes in with fresh breeze from W. S. W. The Bark Steering for Bald Head, at 4 P.M. let go. Anchor in King George Sound. Stayed there three days, and sailed again on Wednesday. We went with my wife. next day spoke Capt Castine. Bald Head in sight bearing N. 15 miles dist

Dec 22nd Comes in with good weather the Bark Steering W. S. W. at 6 A.M. Saw Whales, in Company with the Vigilant lowered for them and saved four small Whales. We found a line attached to one of the Whales, supposed to belong to Capt Baker. Middle and latter part cutting in and bulging. Bald Head bearing N. 15 miles Dist

Feb. 1870. Sunday Feb 7th. The last three weeks has been dry times. Seen whales since Jan 4th going to the Westward, got nothing. This morning saw Whales going to the westward. lowered all four Boats. Struck about 10 A.M. at 5 P.M. Cut line and took up the Boats lost 500 fathoms line & bomb lances, 5 harpoons, &c. Eclipse Island bearing N. N. E. 15 miles dist.

Saturday Feb 12 This week has been fresh Easterly winds the Bark Cruising off Bald head. Tuesday Feb 8th saw whales going to the Eastward, lowered for them and struck to the west boat. the whale run and sounded. Cut the line with a lance. This morning four the same whale again, dead and flaccid hauled him alongside and cut him in and saved 17. bbls of oil from him

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Saturday Feb 19th 1870. This day Comes in with fresh Easterly winds the Bark heading to the North, saw whales going quick to the Westward, lowered for them with three boats. The Starboard boat struck and saved the whale. The Starboard and bow boat chased off to the seaward, after fluking the whale the ship stered off West S. W. and found the Starboard boat coming to the ship, I asked him where the other boat was, he said when he rolled up his sail to pull to windward the bow boat was within a mile of him and his sail disappeared. The 3rd mate Supercargo Mr Fuller had also rolled up to pull on board. So he thought no more of it until he got alongside. I immediately sent off the waist boat to look for him and also run the ship off in the direction he was seen last, with nearly all the men a left but could not find him, at 6 P.M. Mr Rice returned on board without seeing any trace of them I then letted too with close reefed topsails making a dead drift to the North West, had three lights burning and the men at Mastheads, but could not find them. So ends an unfortunate days work. George Campbell is in the run in irons for ill using the men forward and using Mutinous language. Calling on the crew to prevent him being tied up in the rigging, and also for trying to induce the men to come aft with him

Thursday Feb 24th This day Comes in with good weather and fresh Easterly wind. The Bark Steered to N. N. E. finished Stowing down oil in the main hatch saw nothing of importance.