LUCK IN THE FAR NORTH."

All Hands on the Whaler Hume Will Be Capitalists for Awhile.

The chartered steamer Bertha, Captain Anderson, of the North American Commercial company, arrived from the Pribylov seal islands, via Oonalaska. The steamer brings quite a batch of interesting news, the most important item of which is the phenomenal catch of thirty-eight right whales credited to the steam whaler Mary D. Hume during her 2½ years' cruise near the mouth of the Mackenzie river, and well within the arctic circle. It is estimated that the catch will amount to over $400,000 when sold.

The Mary D. Hume may be expected to arrive here at any time, as she left Oonalaska three days ahead of the Bertha. She has on board 40,000 pounds of bone, which will be shipped east on its arrival. An additional 15,000 pounds of this season's catch has already been shipped here by another vessel. When the news of the immense catch reached here there was joy in the hearts of many outside of the stockholders of the Pacific Steam Whaling company. The boarding house masters, from old Horseshoe Brown down, who will get the crew to honor their establishments with their presence, were wild with delight. The lowest whaler on the lay scale on this lucky vessel will not receive less than $2,000, while the scale will rise until the captain will pull down something like $40,000. Every whaler on the Hume will be a little king while his money lasts. However, had these men had a disastrous season and come home empty handed it would have made an awful difference with them. Many of the sailor boarding houses are well filled with boarders who have disposed of their "pile," and the Hume's crew would hardly have found a place to stop at, let alone be welcome, but for their present prospective wealth.

The steam whaler Grampus, which accompanied the Hume two years and a half ago to the mouth of the Mackenzie river, returned a year ago in command of Captain Norwood. The men on the Grampus told terrible tales at that time of cruelties practiced on the crews by the different captains, and how the men tried to desert and were captured. These stories all dated over the two winters that had been spent in the ice and before any whales were taken.

There wintered with the two steam whalers at Herschel's island the schooner Nicoline. Captain Louis H. Herendeen, of the latter vessel, who is one of the oldest whalers known here, was the instigator of the whaling expedition to the mouth of the Mackenzie river, some 300 miles to the eastward of Point Barrow. No whaling vessel had ever penetrated that far before.

Indeed such a voyage was equal to trying to find a northwest passage. Two weary winters were passed by the three crews. Up to the time the ice broke up last summer the expedition had been a failure. Captain Herendeen became discouraged, and after cruising around awhile made a start to get out of the Arctic ocean. The Grampus and Hume, however, worked to the eastward, and were rewarded with sixteen and twelve immense whales, respectively. The Grampus returned and the Hume remained over another winter.

Only the whalebone in the head of a whale is taken, the blubber being thrown away, as the Hume is only eighty-eight tons net, and has no place to store the hundreds of barrels of oil that the whales she has taken would have made had they been tried out.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Playing "Honey Jug."

"Did you ever play the fascinating game of 'honey jug' when you were a boy?" said Old Beeswax (as they called him) to a gang of drummers in front of the St. James. "On moonlight nights we always had a game of 'honey jug' in my old place in Indiana. To play 'honey jug' you must get ten or fifteen boys, big and little, together. They sit down in a row on the curbstone, each fellow clasping his hands under his legs at the knees, and sometimes, to make it dead sure, holding on to his wrists. Two of the biggest fellows are detailed to test the jugs. They take each one in turn by his arms, lift him up in the air as high as their shoulders and then drop him with a jerk. If he holds fast three times he wins. If his hands break and are torn apart he is adjudged 'rotten,' and told to stand aside until the others are finished.

"Half or more of the little boys fail generally to stand the test. Their punishment is to 'run the gantlet.' The other boys form in a row, one behind the other, with their legs spread apart. The 'rotten jug' gets down on all fours and skittles through the openings as fast as he can—receiving as he passes from each one divers slaps and whacks which are merry enough to every boy but the one who gets them. Occasionally he makes quick time and is happy. Most frequently he emerges in a state of wreck and stands seriously aside, feeling with his hands behind him if he is all there."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The Grand Vizier's Little Joke.

The shah of Persia, probably for a little diversion, some time since ordered his grand vizier to make a list of all the blockheads that held a public office in Persia. The vizier did as commanded and headed the list, which was a long one, with the name of the shah. That worthy potentate was in an excellent humor and did not become angry at the vizier's audacity, but asked why his highest minister considered him a blockhead.

"Your majesty," replied the vizier, "I have put you on the list because two days ago you intrusted a large sum of money to some doubtful individuals to buy horses in other countries. The horse dealers will never return."

"But what if they do return?" asked the shah.

"Then I shall take my list, erase the name of your majesty and substitute for it the names of the stupid horse dealers."—Detroit Free Press.

Neither of Them Got Licked.

Dan Moody was a raftsman on the Susquehanna river, and it was his boast that he could lick any man on the river from the mouth of the Chemung to Havre de Grace. Dan lived at Towanda, in Bradford county, and finally grew old and rheumatic. In his old age "the boys" used to put a stranger up to question Dan about his many fights, and after the old man got thoroughly interested and was boasting freely of his youthful exploits this question was sprung on him:

"But, Uncle Dan, didn't anybody ever lick you?"

"No, sir, never got licked in my endurin life."

The next question was: "But, Uncle Dan, you came near getting licked once, didn't you? Seems to me I've heard that you came awful near getting licked just once. Tell us about that, won't you?"

The old man had to be pressed to get the story out of him, but he would tell it occasionally, and here it is: "Once I was haulin a load of boards along the road from a mill up on Sugar creek. It was an awful hot day, and goin past a piece of woods when the shade only came half way across the road I met a feller in a buggy. 'Turn out,' says he. 'Turn out yourself,' says I. 'See ye further first,' says he; 'drive out into the sun yerself.' Well, I didn't drive out, and I did tell him what I thought of him, and bimeby we kem to blows. I jumped down offen the load and he got outen his buggy, and we went at it, and we fit and fit and fit, but neither of us seemed to get the best of it." Here the old man would pause a moment until he was asked:

"But which of you turned out, Uncle Dan?" Then he would reply:

"Oh, I did; we fit so long that the sun went down, so that there was shade clear across the road, and I turned out. I didn't care then, of course, and that's the nearest I ever came to getting licked."—St. Louis Republic.

The Story of a Dream.

There was a group of business men who had met at their club and were discussing some of the serious and metaphysical questions of the day. One of them was a middle aged man with a thoughtful visage and iron gray hair. He heard the others speculating on transcendental theories with close attention, and finally remarked:

"I had a strange dream last night—a very strange dream. If you promise not to laugh at me I will relate it. As a general thing I do not believe in dreams, but this was very convincing—very."

"Let us hear it," said his friends unanimously; "dreams often mean more than we can understand."

The dreamer stroked his chin thoughtfully, and finally began in the manner of a man who does not expect to be believed.

"It was impressed on me very strongly," he said, "at the time, for I had been annoyed that very day by having mislaid some tickets, and I suppose carried the annoyance with me in my sleep, for I dreamed that I was looking for them and found them in a certain place in my desk, where I was in the habit of keeping such things safely laid away in an envelope. It was so real to me that I could hardly believe it a dream. Now comes the strange part. As soon as I was fully awake I went to my desk, and there was the envelope"——

He paused a moment, and some one breathlessly suggested:

"And you found the tickets?"

"No; there wasn't a blamed thing in it."—Detroit Free Press.

Maddie's Birthday Cake.

Eight-year-old Maddie had had a birthday, and was telling Aunt Emma about it. "I had a birthday cake with frosting and with eight little candles on it—one for every year, you know."

"That was nice," said Aunt Emma. "I am going to have a birthday, Maddie. Don't you think I ought to have a cake with candles on it?"

"Why, you couldn't!" said Maddie, looking up with surprise. Aunt Emma was as old as Maddie's mamma. "You couldn't have the candles, Aunt Emma—not one for every year, you know. There wouldn't be room on the cake."—Youth's Companion.

The Human Nature of It.

Fastboy—I knew that Flying Scud would win that race.

Slowboy—Then I suppose you are rich this morning.

Fastboy—No; I put my money on another horse.—Chicago News-Record.

She Liked It.

He (tenderly)—And what do you think of the engagement ring I sent you, Gertie?

She (delightedly)—Oh, it is beautiful—in fact the handsomest one I ever had given me.—Exchange.

Habitual Posture.

Comparatively few persons have both sides of the body of perfectly similar proportions. One leg or one arm is shorter than the other. The two sides of the head are often of unequal size. Few persons have ears of an equal size and symmetrically placed. The size and position of the eyes vary. In the mouth and throat also we find inequality, and the cartilage separating the two nasal cavities is oftener deflected than vertical.

This condition of inequality in the two sides of the body is called asymmetry.

Those who have observed the effects of school life on body development must have noticed the influence of habitual posture on the symmetry and health of the body.

There is a tendency among school children, and especially among schoolgirls, to assume habitual postures both in sitting and standing. The habit of throwing all the weight of the body on one leg produces a corresponding throwing of the upper part of the body toward the opposite side in order to establish the necessary equilibrium. This tends of course to curve the spinal column, on which the upper part of the body is supported.

In this position the body and all the internal organs are thrown out of their normal vertical position, and the force of gravity still further exaggerates this result. Thus the muscles of the neck are unevenly exercised in the unconscious balancing of the head upon the vertebral column. Even the muscles of the face tend to become unevenly contracted, and this in time develops a condition of asymmetry of the face.—Youth's Companion.

Some Interesting Political Figures.

The two states in which the colored voters absolutely predominate in numbers are South Carolina and Mississippi. In South Carolina there are 102,000 white voters and 132,000 colored voters. In Mississippi there are 120,000 white voters and 150,000 colored voters—a colored majority of 30,000 in each state. Louisiana has more white than colored voters, but it has, on the other hand, more colored voters native born than white voters native born. These are the figures: Colored voters, 119,000; white voters (native born), 106,000; foreign born white voters, 25,000. The latter hold the balance of power, numerically, and this is the only state in the Union where this condition of things prevail.—New York Sun.

Electricity in Medicine.

Dr. Newman Lawrence, in writing concerning the many ways in which disrepute is brought on the application of electricity in medicine, points out that a considerable number of medical men who use electricity in treatment simply order a nurse or assistant to make the application, taking little or no trouble to ascertain how far such nurse or assistant is competent, and giving only the vaguest instructions. This, however, does not alter the fact that there is a section of the profession—and happily it is increasing—that can be relied on for careful, conscientious and intelligent application of the most wonderful of modern curative agents.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

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