

warm clothing. And now we began to overhaul our thick clothes and get them ready. The Captain had dealt out to our Portuguese recruits a supply of clothing including shoes and stockings which they did not know what to do with as they having had a pair of cithes on their feet which looked as if they had ran over rocks all their life being hard as horn. As we got into cold weather they were forced to try them and they all made out to wear them but one and he after going on deck with his on and slipping down three or four times came below and taking them off put them away and never wore them again but would go on deck with his stockings on and wear them through the water but he soon made himself sick and was confined below until he died having thrown himself into a consumption.

We had seen whales but once since we left home but we were now on cruising ground and soon expected to see them so in a day or two we were saluted by the cry of "there blows" and soon found that they were right whales. Accordingly all hands were called and the boat lowered and we were soon in pursuit. They went down and when they came up they were close to the first whale who started for them but all at once they disappeared and we saw no more of them. It seems the mate had crossed their wake and their eye is so placed that they can see anything directly behind them but nothing ahead of them. So we had no other resource but to pull for the ship which we soon reached but we saw no more whales on this ground.

The morning after this we spoke the ship *Wm. C. Ship* of New Bedford homeward bound and we sent letters by her to our friends at home. A few days after this we sighted the coast of New Zealand and from that time we began to proceed northerly and of course into warmer weather.

We had nothing of incident transpire for a long time the weather being moderate and our time being occupied with setting up rigging tarring down making spangars &c till four o'clock when the decks would be cleared up and swept and by that time supper would be ready and then our time was over with the exception of the ship's necessary work till the night watch was set and we would collect on deck and the fiddle would be set in motion and some would dance and others would sing songs and so the day would pass merrily enough.

We had nearly reached the line when one fine morning we saw a school of black fish and we lowered away and started for them. We got up to them with no trouble and soon had in view one who began to breach around and threaten to throw himself into our boat but we hauled up to him and landed him and he soon turned up.

The rest of the school when he was struck immediately disappeared with the exception of the mate of the one we were fast to who kept swimming around us approaching as near as he dared to his dead companion. But he was not desirous to survive him long for one of the other boat soon fastened to him and as they are easily killed he was soon picked up. We got three barrels and a half of oil out of the two which was a pretty good yield the average being about one.

We often caught porpoises and when the wind was blowing fresh and the ship throwing the foam lively they would often appear under the bowsprit and around the bows sporting in the foam and appearing to take delight in it. But there is never a vessel without it better for some of us would take an old iron and getting down on the masthead would watch our chance when one passed underneath and dart at him and if he succeeded in striking one the rest of us would haul it in.