

the Virgin decorated with gold and precious stones. We staid until mass was over and then going to the pilots whom we found engaged in sharpening small lances about an inch and a half long which he informed us were used in cock fighting of which there was to be a display after dinner. So after dinner we started for the cock pit and on our way thither who should we see but our jolly friends with a game cock under each arm proceeding that way also. We found about the whole population gathered and nearly every one had game cocks with them. This is the principal amusement of the island and takes place every Sunday afternoon being participated in by all hands not excepting the pilot. The sport now commenced by two cocks being let at each other each having a lance fast to one leg just above the spur and as they are as sharp as can be rendered the one that gets the first clip usually runs up the other. As fast as one would drop our friend the pilot would run in and seizing its neck would carry it out of the ring. He had told us at dinner that we should have chickens for supper and when we saw him carrying off the dead cocks we thought it would be rather old chicken and so it proved for at supper we found it impossible to cut or bite them and were forced to give up the idea of supping on chicken.

Towards night on the third day we bid adieu to the pilot and started on our return voyage to the ship and arriving at the beach about dusk we found the boat waiting for us and embarking in it we were soon on board.

Having got our word, potatoes &c. on board we were all supplied excepting water which we had to get three or four miles down the coast. The next day we got under weigh and ran down to the watering place where we laid two or three days filling our casks and then proceeded to

sea bound for the Ochotsk sea.

Nothing of incident now transpired for some time and we found ourselves drawing gradually into cold weather. We saw no whales on our passage excepting penbacks a species of whale that sometimes comes trouble as they are very hard to catch and their blubber is so thick that it does not pay for the trouble of capture.

We often saw and spoke ships and on one occasion my watch being below one of the crew an Irish man came to the scuttle saying "Boys, we have just spoken a ship." "What's her name" we inquired. "The Champagne of Edinboro town" says Patiz. Thinking there must be some mistake we asked some one else and they told us the Champion of Edgaston. Poor Patiz did not hear the last of the Champagne for a long time.

We entered the Ochotsk about the 20th of May 1857 and worked along towards the bags till we could get no farther on account of the ice which stretched as far as the eye could reach but was slowly drifting out into the open sea and every hour tended to break it up more and more. As the ships in the sea were bound to the bags when the whales are found they were stopped by the barriers of ice and in the meantime kept cruising along the edge of it and penetrating it wherever there was an opening and watching for whales which keep around the ice and are often taken outside. Every ship tries to make a boast of having taken at least one whale outside before entering the bags. These outside whales are large ones seldom making less than a hundred barrels of oil and often two while those in the bags are smaller and seldom reach one hundred. When we reached the ice we found a great many ships there waiting for the ice to open and the time was spent in visiting each other which among sailors is called "gamming". We were surrounded all the time by flocks of gulls and red parrot-billed ducks which were often shot.