

from the ship but were too fishy in taste to be good eating.

One day we ran close to a floe of ice which was completely covered with seals lying asleep in the sun and each of us getting a slick of wood we lowered a boat and started for them advancing as cautiously as possible but when we got within a short distance of them one of them raising his head perceived us and instantly alarmed the rest who all started for the water but as they are very clumsy out of water we succeeded in getting about twenty by hitting them over the nose with our clubs which would stun them so that they would roll over. We carried them on board and took their skins off and tried out the blubber but it does not make very clear oil.

We laid around the ice until the 1st of July before we were enabled to get into the bay but on that day we ran in and anchored in the entrance of a bay which goes by the name of Shanta bay among whalers.

Chapter IV.

My first season in the Beholok.

We had arrived now at our land of promise and now we would see what our officers were in the whaling line. So the next day we lowered away and started on an expedition up the bay the first and third mates going in one direction and the second and fourth in another.

Bay whaling differs from outside whaling in this respect. At sea the boats do not leave unless they see whales but in the bays the boats are lowered every day excepting foggy weather and sent to look for them sometimes being detained for a week and sent off harrassing on the black night.

We pursued our course up the bay for about ten miles when we came to a body of ice which stopped our farther progress. We could hear whales blowing in the ice which they seemed to stick close to. We worked about among the loose cakes of ice but did not see any although we could hear them all around us. They were very shy keeping close to some floe of ice and just sticking their nose out of water and blowing gently and as it was very still we could hear them plainly. In the course of the day we saw one or two but it being so still we could not get near enough to fasten.

We remained about in this manner till nearly sunset when some of us proposed to go on shore which did not look to be a great way but before we got there we were woefully deceived for after we had pulled as far as we thought the distance to be it appeared as far off as ever the atmosphere in these latitudes being so rare that objects appear quite near when in fact they are miles away. After pulling five or six miles we reached the shore but as it was late we did not make a very long tarry but after building a fire and gathering