

before and then got under way and went into what is called Pechotsk harbor where we went ashore and cut some spars and filled our empty casks with water. The trees here are principally pine, fir and birch with but very little shrubbery. One afternoon coming alongside in answer to a signal we were quite surprised at the news that Chr. Iglovic, our third mate had taken a whale and was busily engaged with the rest of the boat in towing him to the ship. While part of us were on shore cutting wood on the rest of the boat had gone on a cruise and had succeeded in capturing our first whale and now were along side with it. We had the fluke-chain ready to pass around him which is a chain with a ring in one end through which the other end is passed and drawn around the flukes and made fast on deck serves to keep him alongside the whale naturally floating although they often sink in which case nothing can hold them.

And now having him safe alongside I took a good look at him. It was of the species called bow-head and it differs from a right whale in this respect. The head is broader than a right whale and is rounded in the shape of a bow hence the name while the oil is clearer and the bone larger and nicer in every respect though the oil goes under the name of right whale.

The Bowheads are not found anywhere except in the Pechotsk sea and up along the coast of Kamtschatka into the Arctic. They have a great predilection for the ice whereas right whales are seldom or never found in connection with it. In the bays the whales are nearly all small but in the Arctic and along the coast outside they are all large thus giving rise to the supposition that the outside whales come into the bays to calve and leave their young here until they are grown sufficiently to take a cruise on their own account.

The next morning early we commenced cutting in. We had rigged our cutting fall some time before so that we were all ready to commence work. For this purpose stages were rigged over the side which were occupied by the officers while the rest of us were stationed at the windlass ready to heave at the word. A hole was cut in the blubber big enough to insert the hook which was then hove taut and then a blanket piece which is a portion of blubber four or five feet wide and about a foot thick was scayed out in a direction running transversely around it and by heaving up and cutting underneath it was brought away from the body and as it was lifted it rolled the carcass of the whale and the operation was continued till the blubber was stripped off and then the carcass was set adrift and in a few minutes it would be completely covered with gulls.

After the blanket had got fairly started the head would then demand our attention. As it contained the bone it was not the least valuable part of the whale and one of the cutting falls being made fast to it and as soon as it was severed from the body we would heave with a song and soon have it on deck where it would remain until the rest of the blubber was taken care of.

In cutting in a blanket piece two falls are used and as soon as a piece is hoisted as high as it will allow a hole is cut in it in which the other block is toggled and hove taut when the piece above is cut completely off and allowed to swing in board and then lowered into the blubber soon where it is received by one or two hands who are stationed there and stowed away.

After the blanket pieces are all in then we go to work upon the head and separating the bone from the jaw pack it away until we get through tugging out. This is not the bone of the whale as many suppose but the tooth growing from its jaw. The cage of the bone is tufted with