

The bay named Bear island and had a fire built around which we were seated some of us roasting muscles while the second mate was engaged in making a pot of coffee. At this moment four bears suddenly made their appearance from behind a point a little ways from us and got quite near before they were observed and then there was a general rush for the boat I can tell you. The second mate was the first one to reach them and we immediately shore off out of harms way. Our coffee and muscles were left to boil and roast away for the benefit of Brian and his family who kept on their course but just before they reached the spot where we had been they turned off into the woods without apparently taking any notice of our bivouac. We then went back again and finished our coffee the mate trying to excuse himself by saying that he only saw to get his gun. But I guess that he thought the boat was as safe as the shore about that time.

As a general thing the crew were much dissatisfied with the officers as whalers and not having any thing to hope for under the ship did well which did not seem very likely under present circumstances some of them had threatened to leave her but as yet none had done so. But one night the mate's boat came on board minus two and the third mate's minus one man. The boat had stopped on shore the night before and three men two Englishmen and a Scotchman ran away together. We heard nothing from them for a long time and began to think that they might have starved or been killed by bears when we heard that after wandering about a week or ten days and nearly starving they were taken on board of a ship that was short of hands and brought away. The fourth mate's boat crew was now taken to fill up the depleted boats and I was transferred to the third mate's boat.

The second mate and his boatstaves were on

very ill terms together. Lee the boatstave being by far the better whaler man of the two and this circumstance doubtless being the principal cause of his jealousy. Coming on board one night he began to accuse Lee of missing a whale which Lee denied alleging that it was too far off for anybody to hit and calling the rest of the boat crew they corroborated his assertion. The captain who evidently had more faith in Lee than in any other officer on board now hushed the second mate by saying that he did not believe that Lee if he had a good chance would miss it and hinted as much as if he the second mate did not care about too close quarters.

The next day hearing that the whales were more plenty in Southport bay we got under weigh and went over there. The first time that we lowered the second mate got a chance at a whale and running his boat plump against him sang out to Lee to "give it to him" at the same time asking him if he was near enough now. Lee made no rejoinder but put both hooks into him up to the socket killing the whale who went down and came up dead. As soon as he came up the second mate who stood ready with his lance darted it into the dead whale at the same time singing out "Afraid of a whale, ha!" but as the whale was dead he might have saved his new found courage till his next encounter when he certainly needed it.

The weather being rough and the whales wild and shy we did not stay like a great while but went back to Techantas bay again and while going in we were met by a boat which coming alongside asked our Captain if he wanted a whale to which he answered "yes" He then told him that he had killed one two or three days before and not knowing where his crew the Chinaman was, if we would try it out he would give us half of it. We said yes and our share amounted to thirty barrels.

We dropped our anchor in what is called the Gut about midway between Techantas and Chinusey