

Notwithstanding all this I managed to keep on deck most of the time and about 2 P.M. saw several schools of blackfish and porpoises. The latter soon after came swirling under our bow. It is really amusing to watch these active fish in their career around the bark now swimming with wonderful velocity through the water and now skipping about in every direction some times singly and sometimes in pairs often throwing themselves above water at the distance of several feet and occasionally lying quite still or only moving with the vessel. On witnessing for the first time their playful exercises I was strikingly reminded of frolicsome little lambs gamboling in the meadows green.

It was our good fortune to catch one of these which was done by darting an iron from the Martingale gun. After it was hauled in on deck the blubber was taken off and portion given into the steward's charge whose duty it was to convert a certain quantity into what sailors term "balls". I had been informed that these were excellent in the third degree at sea and though I had never in my life tasted any I had a presentiment that there was more truth than poetry in the assertion. However that might have been positive proof to my own mind either for or against

was not long to be withheld as they were to be served up next morning precisely at 7 O'clock. A part was also reserved for the hands forward. In the mean time I regretted that misfortune prevented those who were on the sick list from making the same trial I anticipated myself. But ~~policy~~ decided against or appetite did not demand it. For my own part I felt really much better than I had done before and was quite confident I should be answerable when called upon although of course I could not yet deny the possibility or perhaps even the probability of returning symptoms.

After an interruption of about half an hour the afternoon watch were again quite busy the Capt. and officers being desirous of getting things along as fast as possible hoping ere long to see whales. As to those who were perfectly green on the subject among whom I was one they could not be expected to take the same interest with the experienced though to tell the truth I for one and I presume others who felt equally as well had a sort of feeling which amounted to a desire to see these monstrous fish to catch which is the sole object of our coming to sea. We shall likely be gratified all in good time.

It was about this time that I received the distinguished appellation of "Chips" - a name