

some of them. About 10 A.M. having got where we thought we should be pretty handy to the nearest ones which were about 2 miles off, lowered away 2 boats. The other left to take ship's chance. Well, they pulled and pulled till about 1 P.M. without getting any nearer to them and finally gave up the chase and returned to the ship. Just before they got along side we raised a yell about half a mile off to leeward. Capt. and myself being on the look out aloft. While the crews were getting dinner I kept a good sight of him and tracked him at each rising and sometimes he was so near that I could hear him shout. Worst of it was feared the ship might start him off although our main yard ached. Did not stay long to smoke however and were soon after him just as the boats struck the water. He went down about half a mile off. The boats pulled along easily towards the wharf and pretty soon he showed his broad back about 3 boat-lengths from the second mate and heading right for him. In less than a minute they lay together wood and black skin and in went the irons and down went the whale. And now comes the unfortunate event by some means the line got foul in the chocks and before they could cut it swamped the boat. The S.B. was already down and rushed to their assistance for though close to the vessel there were several who could not swim a

stroke. Such time determined not to give him up yet the S.B. kept on chasing him and as he came along right under our quarter gave it to him was the cry and Plump went the first iron into his side. But just as the Boatstern was about to give him the 2nd iron he rose his ponderous tail and with one stroke cut the boat nearly in two and sent the boatstern high in the air besides spilling the rest of the crew. There was a fit though no one was hurt two boats for the time disabled and their crews in the water holding on to the broken pieces or supporting themselves with oars and the whale going to windward at the rate of about 6 knots. It was the work of a few minutes to launch a spare boat and send to their assistance and being near by they were soon picked up without further accident. Safe and sound on board a short parley ensued as to whether it was best to let him go after all the mischief he had done without any more attempt to take him. Heaving 2 lines and 3 irons in tow it was thought he would soon stop from fatigue and pain and they would have a good chance to kill him. It was resolved that none should go against their will and after putting on dry clothing a crew readily volunteered to try him once more. They pulled about an hour without gaining any when suddenly as they were about to give up the chase he stopped rolled and splashed the water with his flukes as if in pain.