

The Sea Gull is a new clipper, and said to be the fastest ship that sails out of New Bedford. She is one hundred tons larger than us, but in beauty and strength they themselves gave us the palm.

Our mate went aboard after some letters. Her captain told him he had heard that the Sea Shell was fast, and that he wished for a trial of speed between the two ships. That he wished to try us under equal sail close hauled on the wind, and if we beat him on the wind, he would try us free. That he could not wish for a better breeze, and if we beat him he would acknowledge it.

We then left and came aboard, and the mate reported to the captain, who accepted the challenge. We shook the reef out of our main topsail, and set the flying jib and sprinker. The Sea Gull had the advantage, as she had her mizzen topsail set. We had nothing but a gaff topsail, and our sprinker being a trifle larger than theirs, we kept the former furled. Both ships braced forward at the same moment. For 15 minutes both ships seemed to be standing

still so even did we sail. After that the distance between us was soon perceived. In the short space of three hours we had drawn him aft three points, and gone to windward half a mile. Our opponent then set his colors, loosed his main topgallant sail, and ran off with the wind four points free. We followed suit, and in two hours we saw the colors up again. We had beat him both times. He clewed up his topgallant sail, and backed his main topsail, and our captain went aboard. The Sea Gull is 10 months out 240 bls. sperm.

2d Light wind, fine weather. Two sail in sight. The Hope ran down to us and hove to. Her captain came aboard and got his share of the oil that we had taken and tared out. We also let him have a spare topmast, which we tumbled out of the gunway with a will. After which we braced forward and stood towards Sunday island.

3d Wind very light, fine weather. About 4 P.M. we saw the Canton with a 120 bl. whale