

a 40 barrel chap. He sounded deep, and would have taken our line had not the 2d mate come up and bent on. When he came up the 2d mate wished the 3d mate to take his line; but thinking he could get along without it he cast it off. We began to haul in our line, but before it was half in he sounded again. We waved our hats to the mate who was nearest, to come up and bend on his line. Seeing our predicament they sprang to their own but it was too late. As their boatsteerer hove no his line ours went over the bow of the boat, catching in the chocks in its passage and nearly swamping us. The other two boats started after him while we sat and cursed our luck. There was a whale worth 1500 dollars gone and we expected a blessing from the old man when we got aboard. Still we had hopes that the other boats might come up with the school and succeed in fastening.

We pulled leisurely to the ship, which was laying about a mile to leeward of us with her main yard aback, and hoisted up our boat. The old man was at the fore topgallant mast head, and sang out for the 3d mate to brace forward the main yard. Shortly after he gave orders to break out the sail-room and get out a new line.

I went to the main topgallant mast head and, with the glass, watched the progress of the pursuers and pursued. The boats were like specks on the ocean, while just ahead of them I was scarcely able to see the white bushy sprouts of the whales. They were full seven miles off. Our men sprang to their oars for nearly two hours, but finding they could not gain on them they hove up, set their sails and came aboard. The natives then came aboard and remained till sunset.

We found at this island a boat's crew who had deserted from the ship *Corn. Morris*, of New Bedford. Rather than endure the tyranny of a tyrant upstart any longer, in the dead of night they lowered a boat and put off, 200 miles from land, trusting to their little knowledge of navigation and the assistance of Providence to guide them to a place of refuge. After being three days at sea, and being chased the whole of one day by their ship, they made this island, where they were hospitably received by the natives. One of them shipped before the mast with us. The others chose to remain and run the risk of being taken of by merchantmen than go again in a whaler. Though there is probably not one merchant ship passes here in six months.