

gled me to find what nation it represented. It had horizontal red and white stripes, like our own, with a blue union, having a single white star in the centre, and was probably the idea of the owner, who is an American—one of those restless spirits that can be found wherever grass grows and water runs. He has been here about six years. He is married to a native of one of the South Sea islands and has quite a family of children. These, together with his wife's sister and a Kanaka, are the sole inhabitants of the island. They raise a considerable amount of produce which is readily disposed of at a good price to the numerous whalers that cruise in this vicinity. We found that, after a short consultation, we had arrived too late. Other ships had been there before us and taken everything. But, rather than let us go off empty-handed, he let us have two barrels of onions, a barrel of potatoes, 50 squashes, and a few bunches of bananas, for which he received 15 dollars. We put them in the boat and started for the ship, which was lying about three miles off with her main topsail aback, where we arrived about 5 P.M. Braced forward heading South.

Jan. 16th.—Light breeze, fine weather. Main topgallant sail out. Wat' hole. 9 A.M. sail on our weather bow. Saw Sout island and Curtis's rocks during the day. This forenoon the 2d mate took some casks of water that we had hoisted out of the after hold a few days ago and rolled them forward. Previous to this the log was hove and ruled off 65 1/2 knots. After the water was shifted it was hove again, showing 8 knots; it easily accounts for the sorry defeat we experienced in our late trial with the King-fisher.

Closest-tacked ship, heading E. N. E.

Jan. 17th.—Fine weather, fresh breeze. Main topgallant sail out. Heading N. E. 5 P.M. the ship Lexington, of Nantucket, spoke us. She was from the Ochotsk Sea, via Sandwich Islands, with 290 sperm, and 1000 whale. Capt. Martin went aboard and returned at 8 o'clock. Braced forward—N. E.

Jan. 18th.—Fine weather, strong breeze. Sunday island in sight off weather bow. The Lexington passed about a mile to leeward of us at 11 o'clock. 2 P.M. Sout island 4 pts off lee bow. Sail two points off lee bow. 4 P.M. two sail to leeward. Ran off to speak them, but being nine miles off at sunset we luffed up on the wind heading S. W. by S.

Jan. 19th.—Fresh breeze, fine weather. S. W. by S. Main topgallant sail out. Sout island astern, Curtis's rocks off weather quarter. A ship and barque off lee quarter. Tacked at 8 A.M. 3 P.M. spoke the ship Norman, of Nantucket, 1000 sperm, bound home, and the barque Martha, of New Bedford, Capt. Smith, 8 months out, via Cape of Good Hope, clear.

Jan. 20th.—Fine weather, strong breeze. Both ships to leeward. Ran off to leeward of Sout island and hunted our wind. S. W. by W. Saw four more ships working to the Eastward. At 2 P.M. a school of sperm whales were raised 2 pts off the lee bow. Before we lowered our boats our manoeuvring was discovered by a strange ship 10 miles off our lee quarter, who immediately tacked and came down with every thing out, and dropped her boats. Our widest boats were the first boat fast. They struck a large 80 M. whale, that sounded and took out nearly all their line, together with that of the larboard boat. Leaving.