

those boats to take care of that whale, our boat started off to leeward, after the school, closely followed by one of the stranger's boats. In a short time we were close to the whales. By having one more sail than us and a fresh crew, the stranger's boat gained considerable. When not more than eight fathoms off they shoved in ahead of us, and were about to take our chance. We dropped paddles and jumped to our oars; the whale was galled, and went down just out of darting distance. Both boats hove up, and the mate of the other boat looking as black as a thunder-cloud, sang out "What barge does that boat belong to?" "The Sea Shell," was the reply. "Well," said he, "if you hadn't taken your oars, one of us might have got a whale." We had no more talk, for seeing a signal to come to windward we went about and worked up to the other boats, and found only one of them fast to the whale, with but one iron in him. He was running like a racer; the sun was fast sinking, and the prospect of saving him was slim, unless another boat soon got fast. We set sails and took ours, but it was unavailing; the waist boat got nearly up to him ~~the~~ when their only iron drew and the whale was lost. He went to windward with lightning speed, and was soon out of sight. The sun sank and we went aboard, shortened sail, heading East.

Jan. 21st. - Fine weather, fresh breeze. Tacked - S. W. by S. Strangers off the quarter. Reefed topsails. Sunset - tacked N. E. S.

Jan. 22d. - Fine weather, light breeze. Main topgallant sail out. Tacked - S. E. W. Sail on the weather beam.

Jan. 23d. - Light breeze. Fine weather. All sail out. Bore

out by. Sail to windward, with painted posts, showing a white and blue signal. Wind S. E. Close-hauled. Lighted boat island & Curtis's rocks.

Jan. 24th. - Fine weather. Wind S. E. Ship with painted posts four miles off our lee beam. Off French Rock. 2 P. M. raised the Norman ahead standing towards us. Painted the fore and main masts and spanker boom. 5 P. M. the N. lowered a boat and her captain came aboard of us. About the same time we raised an object off the weather beam that looked very much like a dead whale. It was five miles off, and Capt. N. sent the 3d mate in the starboard boat to see what it was. We got there just as the sun was sinking and as was surmised, it was a whale, but minus of that important article - his blubber. It was a very large carcass, apparently three or four days old. When we got back to the ship we found the N's boat alongside. They had seen whales 21 times on Japan after we left, and during that time had taken 125 bl. of oil. While they lay in port, (Kani) the ship Martho, of Fairhaven, arrived from a cruise in the Japan Sea, with only one man on duty before the mast. Fire had died at sea, of that scourge of the sailors, the scurvy, and all the rest of the crew, with one exception, were down with that fell disease. The U. S. Consul at Kani, boarded the ship on her arrival and had the sick men, 13 in number, conveyed to the hospital. He afterwards gave them all their discharge, and told the captain he would give him six weeks to ship another crew. If he failed to do this he would send the ship home in charge of the mate. The Normans people left at six o'clock.