

The "Marion", the year previous, on her way out took about \$500 Bbls, was from 7th mo. 15th to 8th mo. 15th day 31 days, without seeing whales. The "Rescue" in 1864, cruising on grounds where she had seen whales all the early part of the season frequently ^{the year previous} did not see a whale after 3rd mo. 9th until 6th mo. 22nd day 105 days, and yet Capt. Honeywell kept his ship on the grounds, and afterwards took 360 Bbls in about two months, and then ran away from whales to get home.

My object in dwelling so much upon this subject, is to set forth the importance of selecting some one locality, and keeping to it.

But the great point is to get hold of the whales and stay where they are.

These instructions and the information contained in them are for no eyes but those of the Master of the Bark "Tropic Bird", and no part of them is to be copied, or in any way transferred or communicated to any person whatever.

The "Tropic Bird's" spars are too heavy for such a finely formed vessel; therefore when the summer is drawing to a close, if you think you can spare the topgallant sails, it may be well at a convenient time to get down one or both of the top gallant masts and put them where they will be most out of the way.

My principal object in preferring Bermuda to Hayal, is that Oil may be shipped from

Bermuda without delay, and instead of \$2.30 in Gold, which we pay from Hayal, the freight from Bermuda should be considerably less than one dollar in U. S. currency, as the passage requires usually but a few days. We get oil brought from St. Helena, and the West Indies for one dollar. Immediately on arrival at Bermuda, ascertain the cost of freight and arrange for the shipment of your oil to New York, and write immediately to me by the most direct conveyance, how much oil you will ship so that I may have it insured, and possibly I may be able to get a few lines back before you get away.

In closing, I wish to be understood that I do not intend to require anything, impossible or even unreasonable, and should circumstances at any time render the requirements herein made impracticable, I shall consider the Master of the "Tropic Bird" at liberty to vary from these instructions so far as his judgment may dictate will be for the interest of all concerned in the voyage.

And commending you to the care, and guidance of that Power that rules the winds and the sea, and worketh in the hearts of men, I am

Thy friend. Wm. H. Howland