

and sending for the doctor. I don't like to leave him, but I have no alternative. Take this, (he held forth the guinea); I would give you more if I could afford it, and I will hasten to the village and give the alarm before I go."

"Us don't want thy money, measter," replied one of the men for his companions; "go tha away and send for doctor, an' we'll bring un whoam."

Henry cast a glance of deep concern and pity upon his kind friend. His heart smote him for leaving him in such a condition; but he really had no alternative save the ruin of all his hopes, and he thought, as the fishermen said, he might do more service by hastening home than by remaining.

He was turning away when he saw Jemmy Tapley, the old wooden-legged seaman, who has before been introduced to the readers of this history, approaching towards him.

Henry had already made the acquaintance of the old man, whom he knew to be a favourite of Mr. Aston's; he therefore hastened to meet him, and briefly explained what had occurred.

"I don't know these men, Tapley," he said to him. "They will be careful, I daresay; but I'm sure if I entrust him to *your* charge, you'll see that he is carried carefully. I may be of more service by hastening to give the alarm than by remaining here. At all events, I *must* go."

Jemmy Tapley readily promised to take charge of the sick gentleman, and see that he was carried carefully and quickly home; and, scarcely waiting to hear the old sailor's promise, Henry hastened away at the top of his speed, and soon reached the schoolhouse, where, as he expected, he found his sister.

Terrified at her brother's wild looks, Mary started up from her seat, and inquired in a faltering voice what had occurred to alarm him.

Henry briefly explained the circumstances of Mr. Aston's sudden and serious, if not fatal attack, and then, holding forth the letter, added—

"And I, Mary, have received a letter from Captain Dobson, of the Amazon. The vessel leaves the London Docks positively on Wednesday morning. I must leave St. David immediately and haste to London by the mail, which will pass by the village in less than an hour, or I shall miss the ship, forfeit my passage-money, and lose my whole outfit, which is already on board. I am very sorry. I hoped to have spent three more days with you; but there is no help for it. Then it seems so heartless, so unfeeling, to leave Mr. Aston, who has shown us both so much kindness, in his present condition, without waiting even to hear the result of the seizure. But what can I do? What *can* I do? You know that an hour's delay would blight all my hopes in the future."

For a few moments Mary stood pale and trembling. Mr. Aston's sudden attack of illness, and her brother's equally sudden and unexpected summons to return to London, both told to her in the same breath, shocked and bewildered her; but she presently recovered herself.

"You must go, Henry dear," she said, "if now, at the last moment, you will not listen to my request and remain in England. If you will do that, let your outfit go, forfeit your passage-money, and make use of the money I possess, lying idle in the bank."

Henry shook his head.

"It would be a cowardly act on my part to shrink—to slink away at the last moment. If Mr. Aston recover, which I hope he will do, he would be the first to

blame me; and once again, Mary, I repeat that I will not stoop so low as to rob *you* of your small store of money."

"Then you must lose no time, Henry. Much as I regret your sudden departure, I should do wrong to detain you a single moment. You have, of course, despatched a messenger to Dr. Pendriggen?"

"I have not. In my confusion I forgot to do so."

"Oh, Henry dear," replied Mary; and there was a slight tone of reproach in her voice. Then she continued—

"Go you to Dr. Pendriggen's house, Jane Harvey, and you too, Betsy Wilcox" (addressing two of the elder girls of the class). "Try which can be the swifter messenger. Tell the doctor that Mr. Aston has been seized with a fainting fit on the beach, and is being brought home by some of the fishermen. Hasten, girls, and tell the doctor to come at once, or—Stay, I will give you a note, Jane—you start off at once, Betsy."

She wrote in pencil on a slip of paper—

"Dr. Pendriggen,—Mr. Aston is seriously ill—perhaps dying. Come immediately to Cliff Cottage.

"MARY TALBOT."

This note she handed to her youthful pupil, and bade her hasten after Betsy. Another of the girls was sent with a message to the Rectory, and yet another to Mr. Sharpe. Then, again addressing her brother, Mary continued—"You have not a moment to lose, Henry. You had better go home and pack your trunk forthwith, and get Farmer Hobson to drive you to the end of the lane where the coach passes. I will excuse you to Mr. Aston. Write, if it be but a line, the moment you arrive in London, and write again by the pilot who will take the ship out of the river. I will write you a letter to-night and let you know how Mr. Aston is. And now, goodbye my dear brother, and may the blessing of Heaven attend and protect you. I will explain to Mr. Sinclair and the rest how you came to leave us so suddenly. Good bye, and never forget me, Henry. I shall think of *you* day and night, and never forget you when I kneel to pray."

Tears prevented further utterance. The brother and sister tenderly embraced each other, and parted, as they expected, for years—for ought they knew, for ever.

Henry Talbot hastened to his lodgings, hurriedly packed his portmanteau, and was driven to the end of the lane by Farmer Hobson. He just barely managed to catch the mail-stage, which always stopped to change horses at an inn about half a mile from the village, and the next minute was whirling rapidly away towards the great metropolis.

SPERM WHALE FISHING.

BY W. H. G. KINGSTON.

THE sperm whale is not confined to one part of the ocean, but wanders in search of its food much farther than the true or Greenland whale. It is found on both sides of the line in the Pacific; as far north as California, on the American coast, and off Japan on the west; among many of the numerous groups of islands scattered over that ocean, off Australia, and New Zealand; in the China Seas and Persian Gulf, and in the Atlantic; he not only crosses the line, but has occasionally been seen not far off the Chops of the British Channel.

He wanders into these various regions, not on account of a peculiarly roving disposition, but in search of his favourite food, a hideous animal of the cuttle-fish

kind, called by sailors the sea squid, and known to naturalists as the "Sepia Octopus," one of an interesting family of mollusca denominated Cephalopoda, or creatures with arms and feet growing out of their heads. Even the shark seems disposed to allow the whale the monopoly of this charming animal for food. Its head is armed with a sharp beak, and its long tentacula are terminated by claws with which it catches hold of its prey. It varies greatly in size. The arms of those commonly seen are from one to two feet long, but they have been found with tentacula six feet in length; and there is on record one which was discovered in the inside of a whale, with a tentaculum twenty-seven feet long. With these powerful arms the creature encircles its prey, and the natives of the South Sea Islands, who will boldly attack a shark with a knife in the water, have a dread of falling into its deadly embrace. The squid is, however, eaten by the inhabitants of many coasts, and among others by those of the Mediterranean, where, however, the sperm whale does not venture.

There is a species of the Sepia Octopus known as the rock squid, from its being able to move along over rocks out of the water, somewhat in spider fashion. A naturalist, on one occasion hunting for shells, had his arm grasped by one of these creatures, and it was not without difficulty that he prevented it from fixing its horned beak in his arm, nor could he get it off until it was cut away piece by piece with a knife.

Besides the squid, the sperm whale swallows certain fish of the size of a small cod. They and the squid are both attracted into his huge mouth, it is said, by a certain glittering appearance in the lining.

Our readers need scarcely be reminded that the whale is, properly speaking, a sea animal or beast, and not a fish, for it produces its young and suckles them as do land animals, being viviparous and a mammifer.

The sperm whale is very unlike the Greenland whale. Its head, which constitutes about one-third of the length of the animal, has a thick blunt extremity called the snout, in shape not unlike the bottom of a black porter bottle. Immediately behind this huge head, or what may be called the shoulder, is a protuberance known as the bunch of the neck. This is the thickest part of the body, which from this point very gradually diminishes for about another third of the whole length, when the tail commences. Here also is a protuberance called the "hump," succeeded by lesser humps called the "ridge," half-way down the tail. The tail is known as the "small" by whalers; towards the end it is not thicker than the body of a man, and at the end it expands into a triangular fin something like the tail of a fish, six or eight feet in length, and from twelve to fourteen in width in a full-grown male. This formidable implement, called by whalers the "flukes," enables the creature to swim at a rapid rate, to dive, and even to leap out of the water, while one blow from it dashes the stoutest whale-boat to fragments.

The mouth extends nearly the whole length of the head. Both jaws, especially the lower, are contracted in front to a very narrow point, and serve the same purpose which a cutwater does to a ship. In the lower are forty-two large teeth, which fit into cases in the upper, which has none. The throat is large enough to admit the body of a man. The eyes, placed a little above and behind the angle of the mouth, are small, and furnished with eyelids. At a short distance behind them are the openings for the ears, large enough to admit a small quill. Not far behind the mouth are the fins, analogous to the arms of a man; they are less used by the animal for swimming, which is performed by the tail, than for

balancing, or diving, or supporting its young. They are about six feet long. It has but a single blowing-hole or nostril, placed in the upper and front angle of the head. In blowing, the jet of water is thrown upwards and forwards, spreading out like a stalked plume. In the head is a large triangular cavity called the "case," which contains often a ton, or more than ten large barrels, of spermaceti. This oily fluid, from its extreme lightness enables the animal to keep its vast head out of the water. Below the case is a thick elastic mass, infiltrated with oil and spermaceti, which also contributes to the lightness of the head.

The skin of the sperm whale is generally black, and immediately under it is an oily mass on the breast, about fourteen inches thick, and on other parts of the body eight to eleven inches thick. It is called by sailors the "blanket," an appropriate name, as it serves to protect the animal from the cold of the water as it approaches Antarctic regions, and also adds greatly to its buoyancy.

When cut off it is known as blubber, and furnishes the greater part of the oil for which the creature is killed. A full-sized sperm whale, such as has been described, is about eighty-four feet long, with a depth of body of twelve or fourteen feet, and a circumference, therefore, of thirty-six feet. The head is from eight to nine feet deep, and five to six wide. Such is a very brief description of the mighty Leviathan of the South Seas. He is also powerful in strength, and sagacious, and is believed to be capable of feelings of revenge against those who attack him.

Among the earliest captors of the sperm whale were settlers in what were then British colonies of North America. They pursued the animal when it appeared off their own coasts, in open boats, after a rude fashion learned from the native Indians. Their descendants have persevered in the occupation, and at the present day they send out more vessels to the South Seas, from Boston and other parts of the United States, than do all the other nations of the world put together.

About ninety-two years ago the first expeditions were fitted out for the capture of the sperm whale, from English ports, encouraged by high bounties. The principal resorts of the animal not being known, and the seamen probably not being very expert, no great success was achieved.

English vessels were, however, the first to follow the chase in the Pacific and off New Zealand and Japan, where they met with abundant success. The most enterprising merchant who engaged in the trade was Mr. Enderby, at the end of the last century, and his descendants have till within a few years continued to carry it on with great vigour. Their last enterprise was the formation of a whaling establishment on the Auckland Islands, granted by Government to their firm; but it was after a time, from various causes abandoned. At one time a number of South Sea whalers sailed from London, Liverpool, and other British ports, but at the present day there is not one engaged in the trade belonging to any English port. The reason of this is simple: they had to remain out two, three, and even four years, and often in a battered condition, to make the long voyage home. It was therefore found to answer better to fit out vessels at Sydney and other Australian and New Zealand ports in the very centre of the regions where the whales abound, and to bring home the oil in ordinary traders, sailed at a much less expense than are whalers. To those ports, therefore, the English trade has been completely transferred, though it is still pursued vigorously from Boston and other ports in the United States.

The vessels employed in the trade were and are of from three to four hundred tons, barge-rigged, with somewhat short yards, so as to be easily handled, wall-sided, and painted black. They carry six boats, long, narrow, and sharp at both ends, hoisted up three on either side, and about thirty-two men, including a surgeon. They are furnished with casks and huge cauldrons for boiling down the blubber, part of which serves for fuel.

The boats are fitted in a peculiar manner. At one end, looked upon as the stern, is an upright piece of wood called the logger-head, and at the other a groove through which the harpoon-line runs out. Each boat has two lines of 200 fathoms in length, coiled carefully away in their respective tubs. There are also four harpoons, three lances, a keg containing a lantern, tinder-box, and other small articles; the object of the lantern being to show a light in case of being benighted; three or four small flags, called whiffs, to be inserted in the dead whale, should the boats have to leave it in pursuit of another; and also some pieces of board called drougues, to be attached to the harpoon-line, in order to check the speed of the whale when running or sounding. Four of these boats are generally employed at a time, with six men in each, commanded by the captain and his mates, who steer the boats till the moment for attacking the whale arrives, when they change places with the headmen and act as harpooners.

Arrived on the ground the vessels are kept ready, with two men aloft on the look-out for whales. "There she spouts!" cries one of them. "There again!" pointing in the direction where he has seen the spout. In an instant all is activity. The boats are manned; away they go at full speed after the whale. Before they reach it the animal sounds, that is, dives beneath the surface. The experienced captain has marked where he went down, and, as the whale cannot remain under water beyond a certain time, looks anxiously for his re-appearance. Up the whale comes. Again the boats are in hot pursuit. The captain, who has been steering in the leading boat, springs to the bows, and seizing the harpoon darts it with all the force of his muscular arm into the animal's side. "Stern all!" he then cries; and high time it is to be out of the huge creature's reach, for he begins to lash with his tail, and turn and twist in every way, till the surrounding water is a mass of foam. Sometimes he darts off, with the boat dragging after him at a furious rate. At other times he sounds, and then, when the first line has nearly run out, the second is attached, and at times the other boats, coming up, their lines are also joined on, to such a depth does the whale sink. In this case, however, as well as from running, the whale soon exhausts himself, and the boats, dashing after him directly he appears, more lances are plunged into his side, and the death flurry soon comes on. A violent shudder passes through the vast frame, and the animal then begins to lash his tail and twist and struggle more furiously than before. Woe betide the boat and her crew within reach of those vast flukes at that moment. One blow from them would dash her to fragments, and send the men swimming for their lives. When sounding, a large whale has been known to take out 800 fathoms of line—that is, four lines; at other times, having upset one or more boats, he breaks away, with harpoons fixed in him, 200 fathoms of line, and a drougue or two on to it. In most instances he is overtaken by the other boats, and finally killed, when he turns over on his side.

It is very exciting when a "school" of whales are found, and perhaps each boat is fast to one of them or

again, when several rival whalers are together, and their boats are in chase of the same whale. The prize belongs in such cases to the boat which first is fast.

The whale being killed, the vessel sails up to him, or if there is a calm he is towed alongside. He is first hooked on through a hole cut near the head. The head is next cut off and secured, snout downwards, astern. Then, with ropes round their waists and armed with spades, they descend on the carcass and commence the operation of "cutting in." This is to cut with the spade a strip between two and three feet broad, in a spiral direction round the body of the whale. This strip, called the blanket-piece, or pieces, is hauled on deck by tackles from the main yard, worked by the capstan, and as the blanket-pieces ascend the body turns round and round until the whole is cut off to the flukes. The lean carcass is then cast loose to float away, and the fluid spermaceti is drawn up by a bucket out of the case, astern, and when that is done the junk is cut off and hoisted on board.

The next operation is that of "trying out," that is, boiling down the blanket-pieces and spermaceti. The cauldrons, or "try-pots," are fixed in their places on deck. The crisp membranous parts, after the oil is extracted, called "scraps," are employed as fuel. The valuable spermaceti from the head is boiled by itself, and of course kept in separate casks.

The operation of boiling down the blubber of a large whale, and stowing away the casks into which the oil is put, amounting to about eighty for each, occupies about three days. A whaler, while this business is going on at night, presents a wild and curious scene, the light of the flames falling on the smoke-begrimed countenances and figures of the men, as with brawny arms they handle their long forks to throw the blanket-pieces into the pots or to feed the fire with scraps. It has, as may be supposed, a repulsive appearance, though in reality the dirt produced is not so great as might be expected, nor does any disagreeable smell attend the operation.

Vessels have been known to return home with upwards of three hundred tons of oil, while others, after an absence of three years, have come back with a shattered hull and worn-out sails, not half full. No wonder, then, that, after the discontinuance of the bounty system, English merchants found more profitable ways for the investment of capital. The largest amount of sperm oil brought into the port of London in one year appears to have been about 8,000 tons. Still, Americans find it answer: the reason is, that the masters are part, if not entire, owners of the ships. They often take their wives and families with them, and make their ships their homes during the cruise; they have followed the calling from father to son; and, what is more, they have picked crews, who remain with them from voyage to voyage, and have an interest in the enterprise, each man, according to his rating, sharing in the profits.

Of late years fire-arms have been used to project harpoons, and it is believed that they answer their purpose, and prevent the necessity of boats approaching quite so close to the whales as was required with the common harpoon; and by this means the risk is somewhat lessened. The chase of the whale still remains, however, the most dangerous pursuit followed by the hardy sons of the ocean.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

III.

For the next five years after leaving Congress, Mr. Lincoln quietly pursued his profession of the law, taking