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### ENGLISH WHALING.

Whales are more numerous than is usually supposed; that is to say, there are a greater variety of these giants of the deep than the two or three which are known to commerce; such animals being abundant in all seas, so far as they have been explored. It is not, however, our intention to enter into the natural history of these cetaceans farther than may be necessary to understand their commercial value. Nor do we intend to dwell on the dangers which are incidental to the pursuit of the whale, of which it would be difficult to compile a melancholy catalogue. Terrible shipwrecks, vessels crushed by the power of the ice without a moment's warning, others run into and destroyed by the animal itself; pitiful boat-voynages, so prolonged as to cause deaths from hunger and thirst; ships engulfed amid the roar of the tempest, and crews never heard of since the day they sailed; these are among the incidents which have from its beginning marked the progress of the whale-fishery; the mortality connected with which has often attracted attention, not only in the icy regions of the Arctic seas, but also in those of the Pacific Ocean, in which, all the year round, men pursue the sperm-whale with unceasing activity, at a risk to life and limb only faintly realized by landmen.

The fortunes of whaling are exceedingly varied: one ship may capture ten or twelve fish, some vessels occasionally come home clean, while others may each secure from two to half a dozen. We have before us several records of the financial results of whale-fishing, in which the profits and losses among Pacific whalers exhibit some striking differences. One ship, for instance, places at her credit during her voyage one hundred and thirty-two thousand dollars; but to the owners of the fleet of whalers fishing from New Bedford, United States, in 1858, there accrued a loss of more than a million dollars. Again, a Scottish whale-ship from Peterhead, in Aberdeenshire, was one season fortunate enough to capture forty-four whales, the largest at number ever fished by one vessel. The value of the cargo in oil and bone considerably exceeded ten thousand pounds sterling. One of the largest cargoes ever landed was brought home by the steamer "Arctic," of Dundee, commanded by Captain Adams, one of the ablest Arctic navigators. It consisted of the produce of thirty-seven whales, which, beside oil, included almost eighteen tons of whalebone.

The only whales of commerce were at one time the great sperm-whale of southern latitudes, and the right or Greenland whale, both of which are animals of gigantic size and great power, the latter being undoubtedly the larger. No British vessels take part in the sperm-fishery, their operations being confined to the Arctic regions. Dundee is now the chief whaling port, sending out annually sixteen ships to Greenland. The Greenland whale, which our British whalers endeavor such dangers to procure, seldom exceeds sixty feet in length, and is about half that number in circumference. An average-size specimen will weigh some seventy tons or more, and forms a mass of matter equal to about two hundred fat oxen. One individual caught by a Scotch whaler was seventy-two feet in length, the total weight being reckoned at upward of one hundred tons. The chief product of the sperm and the right whale, their oil, is of course common to both animals, and is obtained by boiling their fat, or blubber as the substance is technically called.

It is somewhat curious that in both of these whales the head is the portion, size being considered, which is the most valuable. In the sperm-whale the case, situated in the head, is filled with a substance which is known as spermaceti, and brings a high price. One of these giants of the deep will sometimes yield a ton of this valuable substance, which is found, when the whale is killed, as an oily fluid, that when prepared, gradually concretes into a granulated mass. In the Greenland whale the great prize is the bone with which its head is furnished, and which at the present time is quoted as being of the enormous value of two thousand two hundred and fifty pounds per ton. The price in America is even higher, the last sales in that country bringing two thousand five hundred pounds. It is only the Greenland fish which yields this valuable commodity. The whale of the Pacific is furnished with teeth; but the right whale has in lieu thereof a series of plates, or laminae, on the upper jaw, which are in reality the whalebone of commerce. The uses to which bone is applied vary according to the demands of fashion, so that within the last hundred years the price has fluctuated exceedingly, and has been quoted from almost a nominal price per ton up to the sum mentioned. At one period, we are told in an American account of the fishery, the rates for whalebone were so low that few whalers would bring any of it home, their space being of much greater value when packed with oil. Thence a pound weight was at one time all that could be obtained for it; now the price of bone is twenty shillings per pound-weight. It may be explained that the yield of bone is as eight or ten pounds to each barrel of oil. A vessel which brings home one hundred tons of oil will, in all probability, have on board six tons of whalebone.

Formerly it was the oil which rendered the whaling voyages remunerative, and made or marred the fortune of the venturer, but the case is now altered, owing to the enormous prices realized for bone. The head of the sperm-whale is equal to about a third of its whole size, and the case yields spermaceti, which commands a high price; but in the case of the Greenland whale, as we have shown, only a comparatively small weight of whalebone is contained in the mouths of each of them; but small as it is, the quantity

tends to swell the amount and increase the dividends. Whaling ventures are usually made by companies, the shares being everybody engaged in the business work has a share in the venture, the men being partially paid by a share of the oil money. Whalers earn their wages hardy. The work, not to speak of the dangers incurred, is always carried on at a high pressure rate, and is anything but agreeable. The pursuit and capture of the whale are usually very exciting, some of these animals being difficult to kill, even when the boats, after a long chase, come within such a distance of them as admits of striking with the harpoon. Many are the adventures which take place on the occasion of whale-killing; though most of the animals attacked finally succumb. Then begins the labor of securing the prize, and converting the products which it yields into matter bearing a commercial value. The dead whale must be brought either close to the ship, or the ship must be brought close to the whale, which, in the icy waters of the high Arctic latitudes, involves a great deal of fatigue, the animal being sometimes killed at a considerable distance from the ship. On some occasions a day will elapse before it can be known that the whale will without doubt become the prey of those who have found it, and several boats may require to take part in the process of killing. As many as four boats may at one time be fast as it is called to the same animal, in other words, they have all succeeded in planting their harpoons in the whale. But the harpoon, even when shot from a gun into the fish, does not kill it; the putting of the animal to death is accomplished by means of what are called lances, instruments which are used after the animal has been harpooned. After that process has been successfully achieved, the labor of capture, which may have taken from two to ten hours to accomplish, is over. Instances are known where boats have been fast for upwards of fifty hours before the whale was finally despatched.

The whale is usually dragged to the ship by the boats engaged in its capture. Holes are cut in its tail, and ropes being then attached, the laborious process of towing the gigantic carcass commences. Once alongside of the ship, the work of flensing, or cutting-up of the whale is speedily in operation, all engaged being in a state of ferment, and eager for further work of the same sort. The crew may be likened some animals which, having tasted blood, long for more. The operation of removing the bone from the head of the whale is first entered upon; this is superintended by an officer known as the spectioneer, and who is responsible for this part of the process. After the bone has been dealt with, the blubber is cut off the body in long strips, which are hauled on board by means of a block-and-tackle. It is first cut into large squares, in which condition it is allowed to remain till the salt water drains out of it, a few hours, or even a day or two being allowed, according to the work on hand. The skin is then peeled off, and the mass of fatty matter is further dealt with by being chopped into little pieces, which are stowed away in barrels or tanks, to be brought home to the boileries, in order to be, as we may say, distilled into a commercial product. When the fish has yielded up its valuable products the flensed carcass is cut adrift. Sometimes the ponderous jaw bones are preserved; when that is the case they are cut out of the head and lifted on board. The strips of blubber vary in thickness from ten to sixteen inches, or even more, according to the size and fatness of the fish. In general, it averages twelve inches all over the body, the thickest portion being at the neck, where twenty-four inches of blubber are sometimes found. The yield of oil is of course in proportion to the size and condition of the animal, and will run from five to twenty tons. A whale caught many years ago by the crew of the "Princess Charlotte," of Dundee, yielded thirty-two tons of oil. An examination of some old records of the fishery shows fifteen hundred tons of oil to the one hundred and thirty-five fish of the Aberdeen fleet of eleven vessels; twelve hundred and forty-three tons to the Peterhead fleet of eleven ships (three vessels had been lost), which captured eighty-eight whales and three thousand seals.

The ships which go whale-fishing from Scotland to the Arctic regions make an annual voyage, which lasts from five to nine months; but sperm-whalers often remain at sea for a period of three years. They boil out their oil as they cruise about in search of their prey; or when blubber has so accumulated as to warrant the action, the ship will put in at some convenient island, where the process of melting the fat can be conveniently carried on. No recent statistics of an authentic kind of the seal-fishery have been issued other than those contained in the newspapers; but from figures before us relating to a period from 1849 to 1859, we find that over one million seals were killed within that time by Scottish sealers alone; and the success of individual crews in the killing of these animals, it may be said, comes occasionally within the realms of the marvellous. The oil obtained from the seals is as valuable as that got from the Arctic whales, whilst their skins are also of some commercial importance. It was a happy circumstance that just as whale-fishing began to fall off, gas as an illuminant became common, and although train and sperm oils are still used in various manufactories, and especially in jute-mills, the mineral oils which have been found in such quantity have doubtless served many of the purposes for which whale-oil was once in constant demand.

Dr. Welling, the President of Columbia University in Washington, has decided to admit women to the medical department of the institution.

### A HINDU'S YACHTERY.

Signor Luccardi, correspondent of the Milan Society of Exploration in Africa, has sent from Massowah the following summary, dated Dec. 12, 1894, of Signor Naretto's report confirming the news of the massacre of the expedition led by Signor Bianchi: "From Mavaja Bianchi and his companions continued their journey into the country of Mohammed d'Aufar d'Aussa. During the first stage they were surrounded by Danakils, but frightened them away with a few shots and fireworks. The next morning seven Danakils approached, and the travellers told their guide, Mandaitu, to ask what they wanted. After a long conversation the guide returned, saying that the Danakils wanted to make peace and befriends, and declared that they were ready to show the travellers where water was to be found, and to conduct them as far as Assab. Bianchi accepted this offer, and allowed the Danakils to stay in the tent and eat and drink with them and his companions. Bianchi said to them: 'If you are our friends, I beg you to tell me whether you know where our friends Guletto and his party died.' One of the Danakils answered: 'We know the place. It is not far from here and the place where we shall camp to-night.' The party then left the golema far behind to the right, and passing the volcano, advanced to the northwest and camped in the evening. Bianchi, Monari, and Diani, with the seven friendly Danakils and the guide, then went to the spot where Guletto and his companions were killed to search for their remains. They found and took with them a few bones, returning to the camp, where they passed a quiet night. In the morning they raised the camp, and at that moment a quarrel arose between Mandaitu and the natives, whom Bianchi and his companions, with the help of a servant, managed to separate, and the journey was continued. They arrived at evening at a place called Robcock, which is still in the region of Mavaja. There, on the summit of an elevation, near a small lake, they camped. Bianchi and his companions ascended to the top-most point, and exclaimed, 'Here is Assab; we are very near!' and joyfully returned to the camp. The Danakils had taken with them a fine white cow as a present, and this was killed for supper. Afterward the whole party began to talk and laugh, but the travellers were on their guard, and had placed some slaves and an Abyssinian servant outside to watch, while Bianchi's own faithful servant went to and fro. Towards 2 o'clock in the morning some noise was heard outside the camp. The travellers were taken by surprise. Bianchi had only time to call his faithful servant, 'Ciufa! Ciufa!' who on entering the tent was the first to be killed. Diana wounded a savage in the leg before he himself fell. The guide Mandaitu was only slightly wounded with a lance, and on his calling out, 'I am Mandaitu! I am Mandaitu!' the chief of the Danakils told his followers to let the man live, as he was one of them. The servants outside the tent shot a native, but in their turn were all massacred. This occurred about the 7th or 8th of October. In the morning, when the Danakils found that Mandaitu was wounded, they gave him twenty cows and thirty sheep, and carried him into his own country, also called Mandaitu, and only two days' journey from Siket. This," continues Signor Luccardi, "is the sad story related by Naretto. It seems to me that Mandaitu, who misled Bianchi and his companions, is the chief traitor. I therefore wrote yesterday to King John, begging him if he wished to please the king of Italy, to try and take Mandaitu, as he was so near Siket, and send him to Italy at the disposition of the Italian government."

### His Big Friend.

A crowd gathered on a wharf in San Francisco had an opportunity to see a dog rescue another dog from drowning, and go about his work as intelligently as if he had been the trained officer of a humane society. A small terrier dog fell from the stringer of the wharf into the bay. He swam around for some time in a circle, and many plans were suggested for his rescue, but none of them proved practical. The little creature seemed doomed to a watery grave, for he was fast becoming exhausted. The female portion of the audience was much exercised, and gave many expressions of pity. Just at the moment that all hopes of saving the terrier were given up, the bark of a dog in the crowd attracted attention, and there appeared upon the stringer in front of the wharf, a large Newfoundland. He saw the little fellow in the water, and with a low wail he ran to and fro along the wharf for a moment or two, and then, to the surprise of every one present, he sprang into the water and at once swam to the terrier. Seizing him by the neck with his teeth, and after swimming about for some time, he sighted the new sea-walk extension, about a hundred yards distant, for which he headed. Upon landing his burden on terra firma, the Newfoundland gave two or three sharp barks, and seemed to be proud of what he had done. It was some time before the terrier was able to gain strength to walk away. One of the witnesses of the strange sight, patting the Newfoundland dog, said, "This dog is mine, and I would not take one thousand dollars for him at this moment." George Augustus Sala is the son of an Italian gentleman and a once famous English singer. He is fifty-six years old, and has had an immense experience of the world.

### READABLE ITEMS.

A Vermont farmer made a net profit of \$43 50 from the produce of a single hen turkey during the past season. This is equal to 100 bushels of wheat in Kansas at 45 cents per bushel, with this difference: It would cost as much to raise and harvest the wheat as it would bring, while the proceeds of the turkey were gain. A two-and-a-half-year-old child wandered away from its home at Moosasin Springs, Utah, a few days ago, and after travelling several miles through a deep snow and sleeping one night in the mud, it was found, forty-six hours after starting, badly frosted, but in such a condition that by good treatment and nourishment it soon recovered. The London Echo says: "While our navy is reported to be gone to the dogs, and the national industries are supposed to be following the navy, it must fill every well-conditioned Briton's heart with delight and pride to learn from the papers that the repairing and refitting of the royal yacht are just complete. The bill is only £50,000 sterling. A charitable clergyman of Chicago had a large bundle of half-used clothing made up for disposition by a ladies' missionary society, but when the agents of the latter called at the clergyman's house they were given by mistake a bundle prepared for laundryman, and by the time the error was discovered the family wash was on its way many miles toward the Northwest. A peculiar article produced by the negroes of Georgia is called by them persimmon bread. Five pounds of it, it is said, will make nearly a barrel of agreeable and non-intoxicating beer. The persimmons are gathered when thoroughly ripe, the mass is kneaded till it is of the consistency of bread dough, made into a cake, and then put into an oven and baked. It will keep all winter, and can be used until late in the spring. Churchill's Medical Directory puts the number of doctors in Great Britain at the end of 1884 at 21,381, as against 19,947 in 1882. In London the increase has been 12 per cent., so that the metropolis now has a doctor to every 880 inhabitants. But England turns out very many more doctors than it retains. In 1882 over 1,500 registered practitioners resided abroad, and in 1884 they numbered over 1,900, an increase of 26 1/2 per cent. in two years. Altogether there are now over 25,000 doctors holding British certificates. There are in existence rather more than forty Egyptian obelisks. Of these England possesses 7; America, 1; Germany, 1; France, 2; Italy (including Rome, which has 12), 17, and Constantinople, 2. The remainder, many of which are fallen or broken, are still in Egypt. The smallest is the Lepsius obelisk in the Royal Museum at Berlin, which is two feet one and a half inches high, and weighs 200 pounds; the largest, unfinished, of Assouan, still in quarries at Syene, the estimated weight of which is more than 1,500,000 pounds. In the twenty-eight large towns of England—containing an aggregate of 9,000,000 of population—the death rate for 1884 was 19.3 per 1,000, being 1.4 below the mean rate in the ten years ending in 1833. The rates for 1881-2-3 were 18.9, 19.6, and 19.5. The decline has been, according to the Lancet, coincident with the Public Health acts of 1872, and 1875. From 1840 to 1870 the rate was practically stationary at 22.4; from 1871 to 1875 it declined to 22, and in 1876-80 fell to 20.08. In the first four years of the current decade it fell to 19.3, and the death rate in each year was lower than in any of the forty-three previous years. The effect of these reductions is to add two years to the life of every male and three and a half to the life of every female born in England. The saltpetre beds of Nevada are better situated for the development of their deposits than the nitre region of South America, which is a desert entirely devoid of water and all vegetable life, and where the developments can be accomplished only by surmounting many difficulties; the provisions of the miners have to be transported from long distances; the water supply for all purposes is condensed from the ocean water and carried to the nitre fields, while fuel has to be procured from the mountains in the south of Chili. In Nevada, we are told, the saltpetre deposits are in the vicinity of a rich farming country, with an abundant supply of water and wood close at hand, and the nitre can be furnished at prices considerably cheaper than that for which the South American article can be obtained. Edmund Yates fares less agreeably than did Leigh Hunt, when the latter was imprisoned in 1812-14 for calling the Prince of Wales "An Adonis of 50." By his own taste and the attentions of his friends Hunt's prison cell was transformed into an elegant apartment, adorned with bookcases, busts, and flowers; luxuries of many kinds were showered upon him, and he was cheered by visits from such men as Byron, Shelley, Keats, Moore, Lamb, and Hazlitt. Poor Yates, on the other hand, is to be put on an allowance of half a pint of wine, or one pint of malt liquor per day; visits from friends must be arranged by the visiting magistrates, and he can receive only one newspaper daily. His letters are to be regulated by the Governor's orders. He is to take exercise by himself in the first-class misdeameant's ground, to rise at 6:30, and to retire at 9:15. Some of the British peers are very wealthy, as for instance the new Duke of Beaufort. The estimated estates in

Switzerland which he has just succeeded in extending to upward of 450,000 acres, and including the towns of Grenchen, Yverdon, and Delsburgh, and Delémont Palace. The present annual rental is about £170,000, which is at least 30 per cent. less than the return of ten years ago. The Duke also comes into the Boughton estate, in Northants, near Kettering, and he gets a property in Warwickshire, near Rugby, the two being now worth about £28,000 a year. The Duke's pier at Gravelton brings in £10,000 a year, his min rals and quarries a re worth nearly as much, and he owns valuable urban properties in Midlothian. The Duke will receive about £500,000 from his father's personal estate. His income, therefore, will be about £270,000, on which pittance even a Duke can live handsomely.

### Narrow Escape.

Positions in the service of railroads at certain points in the extreme west and southwest, are sometimes filled at the not infrequent peril of the lives of those who have their duties to discharge. A man who recently occupied such a position tells a thrilling story of one of his experiences. He had never been really in danger but once, and that was at Granada on the Santa Fe road, when it was first opened. He says, "I was in the office in the evening, getting ready to close up, when four or five rough, hard-looking men came in. They didn't say much, but seemed to be looking the ground over. We were always on the lookout for such dangerous looking fellows, and as the machine connected with the telegraph was ticking, I pretended that somebody was asking me a question. 'I laughed a little, and seized the key I called for the agent at the station where the express stopped for water and ticked off the words: 'Don't stop the express at Granada to-night, whether signalled here or not. Robbers here.' 'The men eyed me sharply, but said nothing. The sounder kept up a merry click, and I leaned back in the chair. They remained at the station for half an hour and then one of them asked me what time the train was due. 'Eleven five,' I said. 'Well, we wait it,' one of them replied. I told him that I would signal it. 'About 10.30 I got out the red lantern and lighted it. Just as I got it fixed two of the men jumped at me with revolvers in their hands and said they would save me the trouble. While one of them covered me with a pistol, the others tied me flat on my back to a settee. I couldn't move head or foot. 'After they had tied me there I began to think what sort of a scrape I had got myself in. The train would come presently and would go flying by, and then those cut throats would murder me in revenge. I had hardly thought this over when I heard a sharp whistle and a roar. 'The men ran out to the platform with masks on and revolvers in hand. One of them had the lantern, which he swung vigorously. In going out on the platform they left the door open, so that I could see them distinctly. 'I began to hope that the train would stop, for I knew that it contained men enough to overpower the robbers, if not taken too much by surprise. 'The roar came nearer and nearer, until at last I knew by the sound that the train was not going to stop. With the whistle blowing at full blast and the dust flying in clouds, it swept by like a streak of lightning. 'My time had come, I thought. The robbers dropped the lantern and began to swear. Then I could hear them talking, and pretty soon I made up my mind that the train had stopped down the road, and that the robbers were watching it. 'Before long they took to their heels, mounted their horses and were gone, and when some men came up from the train to the depot, armed with Winchesters, I was the only occupant. 'They released me, and I told them what had happened. Two of them stayed with me, and the train went on. If any express ever came any nearer being robbed than that one, I'd like to know it."

### An Ocean Waif.

Every day something turns up to call forth the remark that truth is stranger than fiction. The London papers are advertising for the coming forward of the parents or relatives of a child whose nurse was washed off the deck of an English steamer and drowned, leaving scarcely a clue to the identification of her corpse. But this is not so strange a fact as that associated with an adopted daughter of the Hon. F. G. Hay, recently deceased. During a life of strange experiences, Mr. Hay was once a common sailor in the English navy, and at the time of his death was an officer of the British-India Steam Navigation Company. One of the company's steamers was a few miles off Aden. Mr. Hay was in command of the watch about four a. m., when he fancied he noticed a boat adrift and that he heard a faint scream. He at once stopped the vessel, lowered a boat and proceeded to search for the castaway. He was rewarded by discovering the dead body of a lady and a living child tied together in a boat, which was half full of water. The child he adopted, and she is now in the charge of his family. Oddly enough, he was never able to discover her birth or parentage, or even the name of the vessel on which she had been a passenger. This sounds like a chapter from a sensational romance, but it is true, notwithstanding. Count Pahlen, a Russian nobleman well known in English society, who has just died at the age of ninety-six, once won a hundred thousand dollars at a sitting from Prince John Lubomirski.