

breaking them against larger stones we found that the inside also looked like iron. Up another river, called Ship-river, a few miles eastward along shore from York-fort, there is a bank abounding with these round stones. When we had repassed the mouth of the river and were got near the ship, it being then young flood and a fine afternoon, the white whales appeared upon the surface in such shoals, that we could look no way round without seeing a company of thirty or forty going into the river with the flood. I had seen many at Churchill-river, but here the number was much greater. We got aboard about seven o'clock.

At the close of this year I took a second survey of Nelson-river from Flamborough-head upwards, and also of Seal and Gillam's islands; it being my opinion that if ever the trade of these countries is improved, Seal-island is the properest place for the principal factory and settlement. It was about the end of January 1745 when I completed this perambulation. The river was frozen fast every where except at Flamborough-head, and where captain Fowler and I attempted to sail up, which I now found we had almost effected when we turned back. However, as these streams were not frozen, it was evident that here were the sharpest falls I had met with. I saw many rabbit-tracks on both sides the river, in the creeks, and on the island. I shot a pheasant also and some partridges; and had not the weather been exceedingly severe, I should have attempted to fish. But the few days I was out, the cold happened to be more intense than it was at any other time throughout the season, and I had no more cloathing upon me than what I usually wore in the warmest days in winter: this consisted of breeches made of thin deer-skin not lined, a cloth waistcoat, and Elk-skin coat, and a pretty thick covering upon my head, hands, legs and feet.