

find one that would suit our purpose. We were directed by a man who kept a restaurant, to a Mr. Babmon who owned a few vessels in the fleet, and wanted to sell out. We met Mr. Babmon at his home who said he had one for sale, lying at the wharf and that he would like to sell the others and go out of the business. We told him that we wanted to buy a vessel and if his suited perhaps we could make a bargain, so he directed us to the wharf where she lay. We went down to the wharf and found lying there the schooner Diver of 98 tons register, not in very presentable shape about decks, for she had just come in from a fishing cruise, and her sails were not furled but tumbled together in a hurry; her gear lay loose about the deck, and a very strong odor of fish gurly could be detected, for the boys in these cases of just returning from a trip, jump her as soon as she touches the wharf. We looked this vessel all over and found her perfectly sound and well fastened. She was just the size we wanted, well sparred and rigged but would require a new suit of sails and running gear before she was fit for the voyage. We liked the looks of the schooner, her rig being modern, carrying a fore stay-sail with balloon jib, and all other light sails.

So we talked it over and all of the committee agreed that the vessel would suit, and as Mr. Hooper was chairman he went to see Mr. Babmon to make the purchase, while we waited around the wharf, listening to the stories told by those who had sailed in her; we got all her qualities both good and bad, and as they did not want to say anything that would hurt the sale, I came to the conclusion that they had not told all they knew. Mr. Hooper came down after an absence of two hours and gave us Mr. Babmon's figures. He wanted twenty-four hundred dollars for the whole outfit; Mr. Hooper wanted to make an offer, and asked our advice; we thought that two thousand