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## Poetry.

### USE THE PEN.

Use the pen! there's magic in it,  
Never let it lag behind;  
Write the thought, the pen can win it  
From the chaos of the mind;  
Many a gem is lost for ever  
By the careless passer by.  
But the gems of thought should never  
On the mental pathway lie.

Use the pen! seek not that others  
Take a higher flight than thine,  
Many an ocean cave still smolders  
Tears of price beneath the brine;  
But the diver finds the treasure;  
And the gem to light is brought;  
So thy mind's unbounded measure  
May give up some pearl of thought.

Use the pen! the day's departed  
When the sword's none held away,  
Wicked by the lion-hearted,  
Strong in battle! Where are they?  
All unknown the deeds of glory  
Done of old by mighty men—  
Save the few who live in story,  
Chronicled by sage's pen.

Use the pen! the soul above us—  
By whose light the chemist's art  
Stamps the forms of those who love us,  
Showing us their counterpart—  
Cannot hold so high a power  
As within the pen's end lies,  
When, with genius for its dower,  
It daughter-creates the mind.

Use the pen! but let it never  
Slender write, with death-black ink,  
Let it be thy best endeavour  
But to pen what good men think;  
So thy words and thoughts securing  
Honest praise from wisdom's tongue,  
May, in time, be an enduring  
As the strains which Homer sung.

J. E. CARPENTER.

## Literature.

### THE NORTH-WEST WHALE FISHERY—SURVEY OF THE PACIFIC SEAS.

#### SPEECH OF MR. SEWARD.

MR. PRESIDENT,—Some years ago, when ascending the Alabama, I saw a stag plunge into the river, and gallantly swim to the western bank, while the desponding sportsman, whose rifle he had escaped, sat down, to mourn his ill-luck, under the deep magnolia forest that shrouded the eastern shore. You, sir, are a dweller in that region, and are, as all the world knows, a gentleman of cultivated taste and liberal fortune.—Perhaps, then, you have been that unfortunate hunter. However that may have been, I wish to converse with you now of the chase, and yet not of deer, or hawk, or hound, but of a chase upon the seas; and still not of angling or trolling, nor of the busy toil of those worthy fishermen who seem likely to embroil us, certainly without reluctance on our part, in a controversy about their rights in the Bay of Fundy, but of a nobler sport, and more adventurous sportsmen, that Izaak Walton, or you, or Daniel Boone, or even Nimrod, the mightiest as well as most ancient of hunters, ever dreamed of—the chase of the whale over his broad range of the universal ocean.

Do not hastily pronounce the subject out of order or unprofitable, or unworthy of this high presence. The Phœnicians, the earliest mer-

cantile nation known to us, enticed themselves by selling the celebrated Tyrian dye, and glass made of sand taken from the sea; and they acquired not only these sources of wealth, but the art of navigation itself, in the practice of their humble calling as fishermen. A thousand years ago, King ALFRED was laying the foundations of empire for Young England, as we are now doing for Young America. The monarch whom men justly have surnamed the Wise as well as the Great, did not disdain to listen to OENEE, who related the adventures of a voyage along the coast of Norway "so far North as commonly the whale hunters used to travel;" nor was the stranger suffered to depart until he had submitted to the King "a most just survey and description" of the Northern Seas, not only as they extended upward to the North Cape, but also as they declined downward along the South-east coast of Lapland, and so following the icy beach of Russia to where the River Dwina discharges its waters into the White Sea, or, as it was then called, the Sea of Archangel. Perhaps my poor speech may end in some similar lesson. The incident I have related is the burthen of the earliest historical notice of the subjugation of the monster of the seas to the uses of man. The fishery was carried on then, and near six hundred years after, by the Basques, Biscayans, and Norwegians, for the food yielded by the tongue, and the oil obtained from the fat of the animal. Whalebone entered into commerce in the fifteenth century, and at first commanded the enormous price of seven hundred pounds sterling per ton, exceeding a value in this age, of ten thousand dollars. These were merry times, if not for science, at least for royalty, when, although the materials for stays and hoops were taken from the mouth, the law appropriated the tail of every whale taken by an English subject to the use of the Queen, for the supply of the royal wardrobe.

In 1646, the Portuguese reached the Cape of Storms, and, in happy augury of an ultimate passage to India, changed its ill-omened name to that of "Good Hope;" and immediately thereafter the States of Europe, especially England and Holland, began that series of voyages, not even yet ended, in search of a passage to the East, through the floating fields and mountains of ice in the Arctic Ocean. The unsuccessful search disclosed the refuge of the whales in the bays and creeks of Spitzbergen. In 1575, a London merchant wrote to a foreign correspondent for advice and direction as to the course of killing the whale, and received instructions how to build and equip a vessel of two hundred tons, and to man it exclusively with whale-hunters of Biscay. The attraction of dominion was stronger in that age than the lust of profit. The English now claimed Spitzbergen, and all its surrounding ice and waters, by discovery. The Dutch, with truth, alleged an earlier exploration, while the Danes claimed the whole as a part of Greenland, a pretension that could not then be disproved; and all these parties sent armed forces upon the fishing ground, less to protect their few fishermen, than to establish exclusive rights there. After some fifty years, these nations discovered, first, that it was absurd to claim jurisdiction where no permanent possession could ever be established, by reason of the rigors of climate; and secondly,

that there were fish enough and room enough for all competitors. Thenceforward, the whale-fishery in the Arctic Ocean has been free to all nations.

The Dutch perfected the harpoon, the roll, the line, and the spear, as well as the art of using them. And they established, also the system which we have since found indispensable, of rewarding all the officers and crews employed in the fishery, not with direct wages or salaries, but with shares in the spoils of the game, proportioned to skill and experience. Combining with these the advantages of favourable position, and of frugality and perseverance quite proverbial, the Dutch even founded a fishing settlement called Smeerenburg, on the coast of Spitzbergen, within eleven degrees of the North Pole, and they took whales in its vicinity in such abundance that ships were needed to go out in ballast to carry home the surplus oil and bone above the capacity of the whaling vessels. The whales, thus originally attacked, again changed their lurking place. Spitzbergen was abandoned by the fishermen, and the very site of Smeerenburg is now unknown. In the year 1496, Sebastian Cabot, in the spirit of that age, seeking a north-western passage to the Indies, gave to the world the discovery of Prima Vista, or, as we call it, Newfoundland and the Basques, Biscayans, Dutch, and English, immediately thereafter commenced the chase for whales in the waters surrounding it.

Scarcely had the colonists of Massachusetts planted themselves at Plymouth, before the sterility of the soil and the rigor of the climate forced them to resort to the sea to eke out their own subsistence. Pursuing the whales out from their bays, in vessels of only forty tons burthen, they appeared on the fishing ground of Newfoundland in the year 1630. Profiting by nearness of position and economy in building and equipping ships, and sharing, also, in the bounties with which England was then stimulating the whale fishery, they soon excelled all their rivals, on the Newfoundland waters, as well as in Bassin's Bay and off the coast of Greenland. Thus encouraged they ran down the coasts America and Africa, and in the waters roiling between them they discovered the black whale, a new and inferior species, yet worthy of capture, and then stretching off toward the South Pole, they found still another species, the sperm whale, whose oil is still preferred above all other. And thus they enlarged the whale fishery for the benefit of the world, which since that time has distinguished the two branches of that enterprise geographically by the designation of Northern and Southern fisheries. In 1775 the fisheries were carried on by the Americans, the English, the Dutch and the French. The French employed only a small fleet, the Dutch a larger one, of 125 sail. The English had only 30 ships, while the Americans had 132 vessels in the Southern fishery, and 177 in the Northern fishery, manned with 4,000 persons, and bringing in oil and whale-bone of the value of \$1,111,000. This precociousness of American Naval enterprise, elicited from Burke, in his great speech for conciliation to the Colonies, a tribute familiar to our countrymen, and perhaps the most glowing passage that even that great orator ever wrote or spoke.