

## III.

## IN DAVIS STRAITS.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10TH.—At noon we were in latitude 61.52, nearly abreast of Frederickshaab, one of the Danish settlements, and sighted Greenland at 3 p.m., some 45 miles off. The land is higher and of course clothed in snow—a very forbidding looking coast. By way of amusement, we took the polyphone to pieces to clean it. No doubt the idea was an excellent one, but on putting it together again, we found that we could not get a note of music out of it; so, taking all in all, the experiment was not a success.

Fine all day, but snow fell during the night. One can now read outside at midnight, and lights will shortly be stowed away. We are in Davis Straits.

THURSDAY, MAY 11TH.—Taking advantage of the lovely weather, all the boats' crews were engaged preparing for the fray. The whale lines were coiled down in each boat. There are 5 lines in each boat, spliced into one long line; each line is 110 fathoms long; so each boat has 550 fathoms, or 1100 yards of line. Harpoon guns were fixed and tested. Gun harpoons, hand harpoons, lances, bread and water *casks*, knives, rifles, ammunition, grapplings, tackles, &c., were allotted to each harpooneer; in fact, the vessel presented the appearance of fitting out a boat expedition. Whalers' crews are noted for cheering on the least possible pretext, and each crew cheered lustily on completing their work. At noon we were in latitude 64.15, coast of Greenland in sight about 25 miles away. Ran into fog at 5 p.m., which continued till 10 p.m., when it lifted, giving us a grand view of the high snow-clad mountains. The polyphone is still a tuneless nonentity.