

mer, and using them for fuel. The oil, when separated, is dipped out of the kettles into large copper coolers and from these it is put into barrels and pipes and stowed away below.

A man is aloft at the main-top, and another at the fore-top from morning till night in good weather, to keep lookout for whale. This watch is kept up by TURNS of two hours each. When a SPOUT is discovered, it is duly announced by the cry of whale-o. The inquiry is then made, WHEREAWAY? and the significant answer will be, three points off lee bow, or two points off weather bow, lee beam, weather beam, or right ahead. If right ahead, the ship keeps on her way; if two points weather bow, they brace the yards and keep her up, &c., &c. As soon as the small boats are lowered, a sentinel is sent to the mast head, to watch the movements of the whale. This man has a blue flag, and a stick or wand, with a black ball attached to the end of it to guide the boats to the whale, for the swells of the sea hides him from the pursuers till they are nigh upon him. When the whale is up and spouting the man aloft elevates his flag, and points towards him with his wand, and the crew pull hard at their oars. When he goes down the flag is lowered, and the hands cease rowing lest they might pass him. When he rises and blows again, he may be in an opposite direction, and his location is again pointed out by the man at the mast head. These small boats continue the chase sometimes for miles; a squall may spring up and drive them entirely out of sight of the ship, and night overtake them. In such instances lights are put aloft to direct them back again. If they do not come in, muskets are discharged—if this is not sufficient, the BIG GUN is loaded and fired at short intervals.

On the 20th of March, 1845, we came to one of the Society islands, named Rematura on the chart. The Steiglitz lay off and on during the day, and Captain Youngs and the first mate went ashore with two of the small boats to barter with the natives for fruit and other provisions. The island abounds with cocoa-nuts, oranges, limes, lemons, bananas, taro, yams and other valuable vegetable productions. The officers brought off four boat loads of fruit, vegetables and fowls. The King lives on the island, and he received Captain Young and his men with cordiality, and showed them every attention. The King gave them dinner while they were on shore, and these hardy and rough sailors were not so weather-beaten, but that his Majesty's daughters esteemed it an honor to fan the flies from them while they were eating. There was an American here who served as King's interpreter; his wife was a native of the Sandwich islands. We left this island on the day of our arrival, and on the 23d we arrived at Otaheite, or Tahiti, the largest of the Society cluster of islands. These islands are situated in the South Pacific ocean, between lat. 16 and 18, S, and lon. 149 and 152 W., and were discovered by Capt. Cook in 1769.