

This book is at once the epic and the encyclopaedia of whaling. It is a monument to the honour of an extinct race of daring seamen ; but it is a monument overgrown with the lichen of neglect. Those who will care to scrape away the moss may be few, but they will have their reward. To the class of gentleman-adventurer, to those who love both books and free life under the wide and open sky, it must always appeal. Melville takes rank with Borrow, and Jefferies, and Thoreau, and Sir Richard Burton ; and his place in this brotherhood of notables is not the lowest. Those who feel the salt in their blood that draws them time and again out of the city to the wharves and the ships, almost without their knowledge or their will ; those who feel the irresistible lure of the spring, away from the cramped and noisy town, up the long road to the peaceful companionship of the awaking earth and the untainted sky ; all those—and they are many—will find in Melville's great book an ever fresh and constant charm.

ARCHIBALD MACMECHAN.

Dalhousie College, Halifax, N.S.