

round as on an axis till nearly the whole blubber is stripped off. The head matter when congealed is put into casks in its crude state, and refined at the conclusion of the voyage. The blubber, however, is reduced into oil immediately in "try-works," with which every ship is provided for the purpose. The coppers in the try-works are two in number, and are placed near the fore hatchway; they are surrounded with a casing of brick-work, which forms a cistern, the water in which is changed every two hours so as to defend the deck from injury. The fuel is the blubber fitters, which produce a fierce fire. A large fish produces about three tons of oil, a small one from one to two. A hundred Whales sometimes go to form the cargo of a ship, the produce of which, in boiled sperm Oil, may be from one hundred and fifty to two hundred tons, besides hard matter."

If our limits admitted we should very willingly dwell longer upon this department of the "Naturalist's Library." Many perilous adventures, hair breadth escapes, &c. of the hardy whalers are mentioned, and much solid information is given connected with the fishery, and the trade both in England and America. We may, perhaps, resume the subject at a future opportunity; but at present we shall proceed to give a delicious *morceau*, an example of the delicate touches by which the character of the work will be greatly heightened in the estimation of the man of letters. Like the writer, we have never heard the bird which he describes,—but, in default of this pleasure, are well content with his elegant account of

THE NIGHTINGALE.

"This far-famed songster has been alike celebrated by historians and poets. We have never yet enjoyed the treat of its midnight music, for the food or climate of North Britain seems hitherto unfavourable to its existence; and even the perseverance of Sir John Sinclair has failed to naturalize it to our colder soil; nevertheless, we can conceive the power of its melody swelling on the balmy breeze of evening,

or poured forth during the stillness of night. There is little else attractive about the bird, for its manners are shy, and its dress unobtrusive. In some parts of the South of England the Nightingale appears to be far from uncommon, but at the same time it is very local in distribution. On the eastern side of the island, it scarcely reaches York for its northern demarkation, while on the western side it is said to have extended to Carlisle. It does not visit Wales and has not been yet heard or seen in any part of Scotland or Ireland, but on the Continent it is said to extend as far north as Russia and Sweden. This country is visited for the purposes of incubation, and on the first arrival of the males, which occurs some days before that of the females. (Similar to what takes place with most of our migratory birds,) the song is commenced immediately, and for this short period they are in great request by the London bird catchers, for if taken after a mate has been gained, their melody is not continued in confinement. It frequents the lower coppices, rather than the grown or aged woods, plantations, or countries thickly interspersed with lanes and hedges, and, according to Mr. Yarrel, the grounds of the market gardeners near London, are favorite haunts with this bird, where undoubtedly they find an ample supply of suitable food. When disturbed in these retreats, the call or alarm is even less pleasing than that of other surmace warblers, being a kind of guttural croak, or "jug," as it is termed, frequently and quickly repeated. The nest is formed upon the ground, and is rather carelessly built of dried grasses and slender roots. The eggs are of an uniform olive-brown colour, without spots, which is somewhat at variance with the tints and markings generally seen in those of Cumi-ca.

Of very plain and unobtrusive colour, the male has the upper parts of the plumage yellowish-brown, tinged with reddish on the crown; the quills are of a darker tint; the outer webs, the whole tail and rump are reddish chestnut-brown; the throat, breast, and flanks, greyish-white, shading to nearly pure white on the centre