

sport, it uttered a shrill cry, and dived out of sight. At this a large whale, probably its mother, darted swiftly towards them, and it was only by pulling aside with all possible dexterity, that they escaped being dashed in pieces. Thus baffled, she turned as though meditating another trial, when she paused, and cast upon them a look, seemingly full of anger and contempt at their insignificance, and turning her head towards the ship, as if she had discovered an object more worthy on which to wreak her vengeance, half erected her body, and made for it with frightful rapidity. Those on board saw the approach of the furious creature, but supposed that at the appearance of so large a hulk, she would turn aside. But they reckoned without their host, for she came on with undiminished velocity, and striking full against the prow, caused every plank to quiver and shake as though falling from its fellow. But a more just idea may be imparted by Captain Pollard's own account of it, as it has since appeared in print: "The whale, as though hurt by the severe concussion, shook its enormous head and sheered off to so considerable a distance that for some time we lost sight of her from the starboard quarter; of which we were very glad, hoping that the worst was over. Nearly an hour afterwards we saw the same fish—we had no doubt of this from her size and the direction in which she came—making again towards us. We were at once aware of our danger, but escape was impossible. She dashed her head this time against the ship's side, and so broke it in that she filled rapidly, and soon became water-logged. At the second shock, expecting her to go down, we lowered our three boats with the utmost expedition, and all hands, twenty in the whole, got into them; seven, seven, and six. In a little while, as she did not sink, we ventured on board again; and