

cated to the crew, the captain and others having, for the last time, gone in the long boat after water and game.

Previous to their departure from the creek, the crew took the opportunity of consulting together during his absence; and immediately entered into a conspiracy to run away with the vessel, at a certain time when the signal should be given.

On the captain's return, the ship was ordered to be got under weigh, and as the wind was not then altogether favourable, they stretched across towards the Eskimaux shore, where they were frequently intercepted by the floating ice, which they steered clear off with some difficulty. They now fell in with a vast quantity of whales, but the weather being too boisterous, they did not attempt to hoist out their boats:

The New England Whales are of several kinds: the right, or whalebone whale is very bulky, measuring sixty or seventy feet in length. Instead of scales, it has a soft, smooth skin. On each side is a fin, from five to eight feet long, which they use only in turning themselves, unless when young, and carried by the dam on the flukes of her tail; at which time they clasp their fins about her, to hold themselves firm. This fish, when brought forth, is about twenty feet long, and of little value; but then the dam is very fat. At a year old, when they are called short-heads, they are very fat, and yield fifty barrels of oil; at which time the dam, though of great bulk, will not yield more than thirty. At two years old, they receive the name of stunto, being stunted after weaning, and will then yield generally from twenty-four to twenty-eight barrels. After this, they are termed ocell-fish, their age being unknown, and only guessed at by the length of the bones in their mouths.

The eyes of the whale are not larger than those of an ox, and are placed in the back part of the head, where the animal is broadest. In place of ears, it has two small holes hardly perceptible; but within the head, immediately under those, are organs well formed, by which it has an acute sensation of sound. It has two pipes on the top of the head, that serve the double office of breathing and discharging the water it has swallowed, which is thence often spurted to a considerable height, and in great quantity.

The mouth is between four and five fathoms wide, and the lips broad and thick, and of enormous weight. The animal has no teeth, and its gullet is very narrow. The tongue is about eighteen feet long, and ten broad, covered with thick