DECAY OF A ONCE PROFITABLE INDUSTRY.

The Old Ships, Crews, and Implements Employed in the Industry that Formerly Enriched the New England Coast Towns - Perils of Whaling.

An Almost Forgotten Fish. The city of New Bedford, Mass., re-

cently celebrated its fiftieth anniversary get it in large, unvarnished quantity, as a municipality. It is a typical New England city, whose people, with Yankee adaptiveness, have replaced the whaling industry-once its principal reliance-with many more modern business enterprises.

The whaler, like the Indian, the cow-

boy and the logger, is a vanishing type of America. A century finds him relegated from among the foremost features of the New England seaboard to be an almost "down East" were built on a foundation of cetaceous blubber, and the wheels of prosperity were lubricated with spermaceti, but when the rock farms of Pennkeen Yankee, however, was equal to the supplies. emergency, and the millions that had accumulated through sperm oil were invested in manufacturing. The rusting harpoons were transformed to shining spindles, the tempest-tossed timbers of abandoned ships fed the glowing grates of new enterprise, romance of the sen fled away as the electric shadowed the astral lamp. but thrifty profit cheerily nestled in the embrasure of the old New England mantle trees, smiling at the ghostly memories and heroics of long ago

Rare O.d New Bedford.

What of the fleet of 400 whaling ships once registered from New Bedford, Nantucket, Gloucester and Provincetown? One would find only a few remnants of this glory to-day. New Bedford, indeed, is one of the largest manufacturing centers of the East, but Nantucket is merely an exhibition stand for tourists after "dip" or in search of colonial curios, while Provincetown is a sleepy point at land's Down at the moss-grown wharves of New Redford there is an aggregation of queer old ships, fleating monuments of the ancient fleet. There they lie, in their quiet reservations, hoary in age, linked in pairs, as though to keep up the old form of "gam" (whaler's gossip) and look in mild rebuke at the wheezy, impudent little tugs that bustle about the harbor aggressively attached to large and lazy ships that are ceming from or going to foreign shores. These old heroes, that were once the pride and glory of American seamen when our flag floated in every port on the globe, are freighted with rare romance and curious in contrast with the craft of to-day. The largest of them did not measure over 125 feet, or exceed 500 ross tonnage. Take the old Commo Morris as a type. She was built in 1841 tonnage, 338.21; length, 107; beam, 27 depth, 17. The quaint old figurehead is battered almost beyond recognition, but may take pride in the fact that it cleared \$200,000 for owners in a brief commis-

The Whaleship Structurally.

Their bows, broad, round, are heavily timbered, ornate with curious carving. and their sterns are straight and square, giving an ungainly look; yet these old ships have boldly battered arctic ice and scorched under the "line." They have sailed in every sea, roving in unending commission, until their water casks were filled with oil. Notwithstanding the Standard venturesome whalers still sail into New Bedford, and unload their cargoes on the ancient wharves, where barrels and barrels are waiting a favorable market, protected from the weather by Sperm oil is now 38 cents per gal-

HUNTING THE WHALE watch is sealed up in rough weather. How over a score of men can live and keep healthy and happy in this dark and fearome hole for months or years is a mys-

> A whaler's crew usually enlists from twenty-four to thirty men, each man on his "lay," for they all share in a percentage of the profit—the first mate, 1 in 24; the second mate, 1 in 30; the others shar ing down, according to rank, the figures varying with the market and the size of the ship. There are four mates, a steward, a cook, a cooper, ordinary seamen and green hands-the last getting the drudg-The latter are ery and the light "lay." out for "experience," and they generally

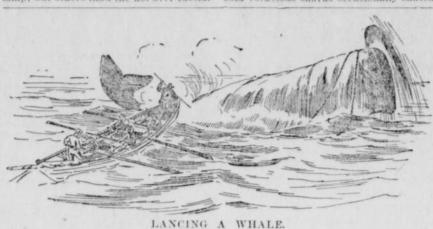
It is estimated that it requires \$30,000 to fit for a long voyage, as every emer gency must be anticipated and provided for-say a period of three years. Into the hold are packed 150 barrels of salt beef, seventy-five barrels of salt pork, thirty barrels of ship biseuit, thirty or forty barrels of flour, 300 gaffons of mo lasses, 200 pounds of coffee, 200 pounds of tea, 500 pounds of sugar, equal quanforgotten figure. The famous fortunes tities of rice, meal, beans, dried apples. hams, butter, raisins, cheese, canned goods, vinegar, and food staples. The new oil casks are filled with fresh water, and there are quantities of oak and pine sylvania began, geyserlike, to spout petroleum, the hollow roar sounded the thousand and one things, from paint and death knell of the whaling industry. The tar to pills and gunpowder, in the spare

The Whaleboat.

The conspicuous equipment of the whaler is the sharp, double-prowed boats that hang from awkward looking wooden daroyal recognition for concocting a sauce one. The great battering ram of the vits, one on the larboard and two or three on the starboard side. The Yankees that species of whale. The monks of Duncious oily vintage, the highly prized

last voyage.

A whaling captain recently told the from the upper part of the crown bone, with their entire crews into the air as a writer that it took no less than seven mod-ern lance bombs to finish a big whale on of these are fringed with hairy fibers. When a whale has succumbed to lance The modern German through which he strains the water, and whalers (steam ships) attack the whales directly, without the aid of small boats, the harpoon and bomb lances being fired seas of brit (a minute yellow substance from a big swivel gun in the bow. This upon which the right whale largely feeds) was the way Emperor William captured in feeding time off the famous Brazil whale two years ago, in the North Sea, banks. The colonades of bone so method-It may appear uncanny that man should | ically arranged resemble a pipe organ. For feed upon the creature that feeds his a carpet to this organ is a tongue that the lamp; but others than the not over-fastidible bold voracious sharks occasionally snatch



ous Eskimo have so feasted, without the out-sometimes when the tormented odoriferous vintage of train-oil. It is re- whale is alive-before the whaler can cencorded that three centuries ago the tongue vert it into five barrels of oil (whalebone of the right whale was esteemed a rare commands from \$3 to \$6 per pound). The delicacy in France, and in the time of right whale has two external spout holes

ing and dyed the sea with spouting blood the huge body is towed to the ship and large chains are put about the head and flukes to hold the body fast. Enormous tackles are swayed up to the main top, and firmly lashed to the lower mast head, the strongest point above the ship's deck, to the end of a hawser-like rope. Winding through the intricacies is the blubber hook, weighing a hundred pounds, blubber envelopes a whale like a rind does an orange, and as the ship careens to the strain of the tackle fixed to the heaving windlass, the hook takes hold and following the line scarf made by the keen cutting spades, the great body rolls over as strip after strip of the blood-dripping blubber is pulled aloft and lowered through the mainhatch to the blubber room. There it is cut up by double-handed knives, and passed up to the deck to be tried out in the smoking brick furnaces, with wooded water backs about their base. Edged Tools of the Whaler.

The whaling spade, like all the lancing and cutting equipment, is of the best steel, is kept as sharp as possible and is honed like a razor. This spade is about as large as a man's spread hand, and has a socket in which is a pole handle twenty feet long. These edge tools are kept in canvas pockets, lined with wool.

One of the most profitable and curious products derived from the sperm whale is ambergris (gray amber), a morbid secretion of the liver or intestines. It is a opaque inflammable substance, lighter than water, having the consistency of wax, and having when heated a fragrant odor. It is highly soluble in alcohol, and is used particularly as the andusually at holding base of perfume, and was once considered as having great medicinal properties as an aphrodisiae, and for spieing wines. It is sometimes obtained from post-mortems on diseased whales, or found floating on the water in the neighborhood of the Bahamas in masses of from sixty to 225 pounds. Ambergris of the best grade is now quoted at \$27 per ounce. Chas, E. Nixon, in the Chicago Inter Ocean.

AN ABSENT-MINDED MAN.

Results of a Learned Professor Losing Himself in Realms of Thought.

"When I was younger than I will ever be again," said the professor with a three-story head and eyeglasses of telescopic power, "I was the victim of such intense mental abstraction that I removed myself entirely from the world of practical affairs. I was in the boundless realms of thought and paid but fleeting attention to the active field class, eat my meals, and even when I should retire.

"I was at one time requested to lecture in a Western village, and agreed to do so. The theme was one that had received my best thoughts, and the mere prospect of delivering it was a physical pleasure. When I arrived at the depot my thoughts were concentrated upon the proposed address. I realized that my train was an hour late and that I must hurry, but beyond the mere fact of hurrying I did not grasp a detail.

"'Drive fast,' I shouted to the driver of a dingy-looking vehicle as I sprang in and handed him a \$5 bill. 'Spare neither horse nor whip.'

"Away we went with a plunge. The carriage rolled like a ship in the trough of the sea. Street lights seemed a torchlight procession moving rapidly the other way. Constables shouted, dogs, barked, small boys chased us, stand on the sidewalk and gaze. Up one street and down another we dashed madly. We took corners on two wheels, grazed telegraph poles and knocked over such movables as ash barrels and dry goods boxes.

"After half an hour of this bewildering experience I stuck my head from the window and shouted: 'Are we nearly there?

"'Where did yez want to go, sor?' came the edifying answer."

The Oldest Plow Maker.

Chicago has the oldest plow-maker in the United States. His name, is David Bradley, and he is at the head of a big manufacturing company on the West Side. Mr. Bradley first worked at the business in Syracuse, N. Y., in 1832. In 1835 he came to Chicago, which then numbered about 2,500 inhabitants and a camp of several thousand Indians, to help erect the first iron-foundry established here. Mr. Bradley was the first man to bring pig-iron into Chicago. In connection with the foundry which he helped build was a machine-shop, and the establishment soon began along with its other business the manufacture of plows. Mr. Bradley, by the growth of his business, was finally forced to build a little town of his own, which is known as Bradley, Ill. Mr. Bradley has passed his 85th birthday, but is still hale and hearty, and thoroughly enjoys the prosperity which hard work has brought him. The active business has been surrendered to his sons.-Chicago Tribune.

Where Duels Are Fought.

More duels are fought in Germany than in any other country. Most of them, however, are student duels, which culminate in nothing more rious than slashed cheeks or torn scalps. Of all German university towns, little Jena and Gottingen are most devoted to the code. In Gottingen the number of duels average one a day, year in and year out. On one day, several years ago, twelve duels were fought in Gottingen in twenty-four hours. In Jena the record for one day in recent times is twenty-one. Fully 4,000 student duels are fought every year in the German Empire. In addition to these there are the more serious duels between officers and civilians. Among Germans of mature years the annual number of duels is about 100.

London has 1,380 miles of streets; Paris, 600 miles, and New York 577

GOES TO SLEEP AT NIGHT.

Washington Tree Whose Foliage Closes Up at 7 O'clock. Near the western border of Dupont



circle, in Washington, D. C., stands a tree that goes to sleep promptly every night at 7 o'clock. The tree is known as the albizzia julibeen christened so anist in honor of the Albizzi family in Florence. It is, however, an orig-

inal of Japan, and IN THE DAY TIME. known there as the silk tree, probably on account of the silky appearance of its blossoms. Soon after 7 o'clock in the evening a general motion is noticed in the foliage, a quiver

or trembling of the bipinnate leaves. Each leaflet begins to stand up on edge and pairs with the one opposite. They clasp each other tightly and then close up, so that becomes each coverlet over half of the preceding one. The entire transformation takes place in about twenty minutes, about 7:30 the respiratory organism of this tree hangs

limp and drooping on the branches, Small branches kept in a dark room promptly close at 7 p. m.

JOHN BRISBEN WALKER.

Journalist Who Proposes Founding

a University for Working People. John Brisben Walker, who purposes to found a university for working people, is one of the most versatile men in New York. He will begin the organization of the new institution in September, when Prof. Andrews leaves the presidency of Brown, from which he has resigned. Mr. Walker has had a varied career. He passed some years in the military academy at West Point and left that school to accept a position in the army of the Chinese empire. When he returned to America he beof human action. It was necessary to came a manufacturer, got into politics notify me when I should attend my and was nominated for Congress. That was in 1870. In the panic of 1873 his fortune was swept away. Then he went into newspaper work, wrote for



JOHN BRISBEN WALKER.

and business ceased that people might the Cincinnati Commercial-Gazette, and became the managing editor of several journals. Abandoning that work Mr. Walker went to Colorado and turned alfalfa farmer. He was a pioneer in the growing of this plant and his farm was the most noted in the country. At the same time he was engaged in a series of engineering operations which saved from the Platte River an area equal to 500 lots in the heart of the city of Denver. He sold out all his property in the West and with a very large capital realized from it went East and purchased the decadent Cosmopolitan Magazine. Under his management the Cosmopolitan has proved a great financial success. Mr. Walker is reputed to be a millionaire and able to carry his educational scheme into practice.

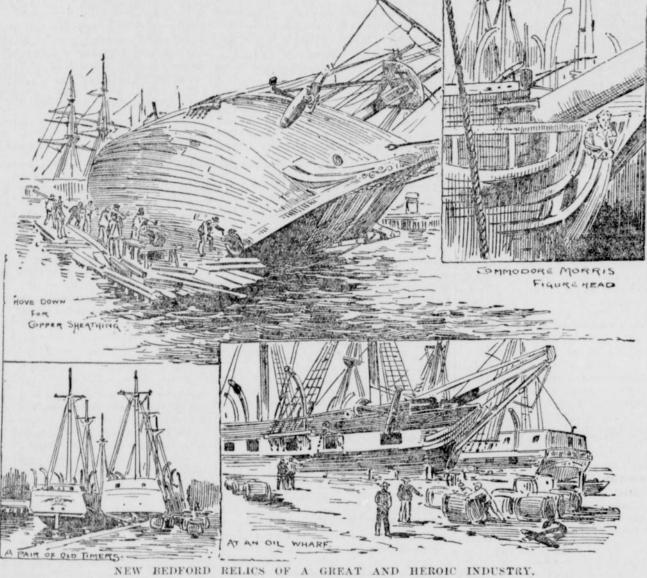
> Woman's Truest Accomplishment. "Several of the great educational institutions for girls announced this fall. for the first time in their history, classes for sewing as one of their chief attractions," writes Edward W. Bok in the Ladies' Home Journal. "The girls of the fashionable world are joining 'sewing afternoons,' as they are called. Common sense has come to the rescue in pointing out to girls that sewing is an art, and one of the finest of accomplishments. In olden times the needle was the pride of the clever maid; none was prouder than she who, with her own hands, could fashion her own dainty lingerie.

"The modern girl, in taking up her sewing, only comes back to first principles. But they are sturdy principles to which she is returning, and she will find them so. It is a small thing which sometimes causes a revolution, and the needle, small as it is, by a general adoption can do much to elevate American girlhood to a pinnacle of usefulness which will win for her admiration the world over. So essentially feminine an art should never be allowed to die out, and when its possibilities, artistic and useful, are better understood by our girls, their own pride will keep it in its proper place; among woman's highest' arts and truest accomplishments,"

Big Show for Parisians in 1900.

It is estimated that the French government will expend altogether 107,-000,000 francs on the exposition of 1890, of which Paris will contribute 20,000,000,

Bee's Wings Work Rapidly. A captive bee striving to escape has been made to record as many as 15,540 wing strokes per minute in a recent test.



masses of dried seaweed packed about devised this craft built for speed, stability fermline had a great porpoise grant from spermaceti in its pure limpid and odoriferlon; it used to command from \$1 to \$1.50. boats, stepped for a mast, and arranged like veal balls. Zogoranda, an old-time found unalloyed in any other part of the Two old whaleships came sailing into for six oarsmen, with platforms at each doctor, recommended strips of blubber creature. A large whale's "case" yields New Bedford recently—the Rising Sun, end for lancer and steersman, have for infants as very juicy and nutritious. 500 gallons of sperm. In a whale eighty odoriferous with oil, after a three-months brought more wealth from the nether In the case of a small sperm whale the feet long the head is about twenty-six cruise, and the Dolphin, packed with whalebone, after a cruise of thirty-three Aside from their complete equipment their cures. The scraps of blubber are called ber is the epidermis; it has something of months around Cape Horn. The Rising distinctive furnishing is a tub, where spir-Sun will serve as a type. The distinctive ally coiled in concentric layers, or sheaves, architectural feature of her deck forward is the whale line. This line is a manila was the big brick furnaces inclosing the rope, two-thirds of an inch in thickness, oil try pots. A fire inspector might call it and measures something over 200 tath a "target," but whalers, soaked as they oms. This line is attached to the harpoon, are with oil, and, when trying out blubber, and the other end is unattached, first, as the roll of the ship seeming to send flames a matter of safety; second, for fastening up to the masthead, seldom burn-a fact to a second line should the whale "sound" due only to the most extraordinary cau- so deep as to take up the entire length of tion, the wooden water backing about the line. (Scoresby records an instance where furnaces being kept constantly filled. The the quantity of line withdrawn from the cook's galley was no larger than a dog-different boats engaged in the capture of house, and did not admit of that functionary standing up while at his labors.

one whale amounted to 10,400 yards, or nearly six English miles.) The upper end



delicacies were stored.

In the Captain's Cabin.

The master, Captain Taylor, extended of the line is taken aft from the tub, and, an invitation to go into the cabin. The after passing around a loggerhead, is carsteps inclined at 90 degrees and were very ried forward the length of the boat, restslippery; so we descended on the air line, ing upon the handle of every man's oar, The little room was about so that it jogs against his wrist in rowseven by eight feet, with three open berths ing; passing between the men as they on a side and a small folding table in the alternately sit at the opposite gunwales, Things were neat enough, and to the grooves in the extreme prow, where lockers all about the sides and under the a little wooden pin prevents its slipping berths showed where things not in use out. The whale line thus enfolds the were preserved. A trap door in the floor boat in its complication, and all its crew opened into the lazarette, where the table in its contortions; when it whirls out fast a frightened and frenzied whale it fairly smokes, and keeping the line free The captain's wife, a delicate and re- is essential to the safety of all concerned. fined little woman, had made a number of The harpooning is done by the man who voyages with him, and found this cabin handles the steering oar; this merely gets quite comfortable. The apartment was the boat fast to the fish; the officer in the roomy and distinctly "swell" compared bow does the lancing, which is to give to the forecastle, up in the bow, where the whale the queetas, the sailors smoked and slept and spun ing bomb lances are fired at the harpoon-their yarns. They were packed in like ed whale from a short gun that kicks like hairy sides present us with those wonder-deals out death in a stroke when vicious-the deals out death in a stroke when vicious-deals out death to the forecastle, up in the bow, where the whale the quietus. In modern whaland air can get through the little hatch, a whale is not always easy game.

and buoyancy. These twenty-four-foot the crown, serving and seasoning the meat 'fritters" and taste like pork cracklings; on the whalers, however, they are used for feeding the flames that try out the oil. Whalers wrecked in Greenland have been blubber that had been left ashore, which | yield of 100 barrels of oil. When one con

In the order of leviathans, the sperm whale and the right whale are the most may guess that a whale weighs as much important, as the only ones regularly hunted for by man. The external differ ence between them is mainly marked in symmetry that is lacking in the right, whose chief treasure is whalebone. Cant over the sperm whale's head that it may lie bottom up, and have a peep down the mouth. What a really beautiful mouth! From floor to ceiling, papered with a glistening, white membrane, glossy as bridal satins. Pry up the lower jaw and expose its rows of great ivory teeth, it seems a terrific portcullis, and such, alas! it proves o many a poor wight in the fishery, upon whom its spikes fall with impaling force, But far more terrible is it to behold, when fathoms down in the sea you see harpooned whale, floating there suspended with his prodigious jaw, some ifteen feet long, hanging straight down at right angles with his body, for all the world like a ship's jibboom

The Powerful Lower Jaw.

The lower jaw can be unringed by a practical artist and hoisted on deck for the purpose of extracting the ivory teeth that the sailors decorate with India ink designs, and the hard, white whalebone that they fashion into canes and whip handles during their long days of inactivity. There are forty-two teeth, those in old whales much worn down, but never decayed.

One of the darkest tragedies of the cean resulted from a whale sinking the whaleship Essex, Nov. 16, 1819. furiated monster first struck the ship just forward the forechains, with a tremendous shock that started her butts. The and inhale; something like an hourly profated ship was settling when the whale returned and struck her under the cathead, and completely stove in her bows, Some of the survivors of the crew drifted in open boats for three months, their lives being sustained by cannibalism.

As for the head of the right whale look at that hanging lip; what a mammoth sulk and pout! By measuring it is twenty feet some 500 gallons of oil or more. high, and runs up to a sharp angle, like bone, say 300 on a side, which, depending ly aiming at a whaleboat (hurling boats

ous state; nor is this precious substance the consistence of close-grained beef, but tougher, more elastic, and compact, and ranges from eight to ten, or even fifteen inches in thickness. In the case of a known to subsist upon moldy scraps of large sperm whale there will be a blubber is a tribute to their nourishing quality, in siders that this only represents threefourths of the entire coat, and that ten barrels to the ton is a fair allotment, one as a small locomotive.

perm Whale's Characteristics. The sperm whale, like other leviathans their heads, the sperm species having a but unlike other fish, breeds indifferently at all seasons. Again it is warm-blooded and requires air to fill the lungs. The inhaling is done through the spiracle or he in the top of his head; not through his mouth, which is eight feet below the sur-



Aside from the wide expanding and massive jaw of the sperm whale his tail is his powerful arm of defense. To begin

with, at that point where it tapers to the girth of a man, it comprises on its upper surface an area of fifty square feet; the compact body of its root expanding into two broad flukes, shoaling away to less long and five feet deep, and will yield you than an inch in thickness. The entire The member is a webbed bed of wedded sinroof of the mouth is about twelve feet ews, with subtle elasticity and amazing strength, that sends the owner through

face when the big fish comes up to "blow

Streets in Big Cities.