

Destruction of a Whale Ship by a Sperm Whale.

The Panama Herald publishes a thrilling sketch of the destruction of the whale ship *Alexander*, Capt. John S. Deblois, of New Bedford, by a large sperm whale. Previous to this destruction, both the larboard and starboard boats were crushed by a stroke of the whale, the crews, succored by Capt. D., narrowly escaping with their lives. The account which follows, relates to the sinking of the ship from an attack of the enraged monster of the deep. The narrative is the more striking, since but one similar case is reported to have occurred during the present century:

After reaching the ship a boat was detached for the cars of the demolished boats, and it was determined to pursue the whale with the ship. As soon as the boat returned with the oars, sail was set and the ship proceeded after the whale. In a short time she overtook him, and a lance was thrown into his head. The ship passed on by him, and immediately after they discovered that the whale was making for the ship!—As he came up near her they hauled on the wind, and suffered the monster to pass her. After he had fairly passed, they kept off to overtake and attack him again. When the ship had reached within about fifty rods of him, they discovered that the whale had settled down deep below the surface of the water, and as it was near sundown they concluded to give up the pursuit.

Capt. Deblois was at this time standing in the nightheads on the larboard bow, with craft in hand ready to strike the monster a deadly blow should he appear, the ship moving about five knots, when working on the side of the ship, he discovered the whale rushing towards her at the rate of fifteen knots! In an instant the monster struck the ship with tremendous violence shaking her from stem to stern. She quivered under the violence of the shock, as if she had struck upon a rock! Capt. Deblois immediately descended into the fore-castle and there to his horror, discovered that the monster had struck the ship about two feet from the keel, abreast the foremast, knocking a great hole entirely through her bottom through which the water roared and rushed in impetuously! Springing to the deck, he ordered the mate to cut away the anchors and get the cables oberboard to keep the ship from sinking, as she had a large quantity of pig iron on board.

In doing this the mate succeeded in relieving only one anchor and cable clear, the other having been fastened around the foremast. She ship was then sinking very rapidly. The Captain went into the cabin, where he found three feet of water; he, however, succeeded in procuring a chronometer, sextant and chart. Reaching the decks he ordered the boats to be cleared away, and to get water and provisions, as the ship was heeling over. He again descended to the cabin, but the water was rushing in so rapidly that he could procure nothing. He then came upon deck, ordered all hands into the boats, and was himself the last to leave the ship, which he did by throwing himself into the sea and swimming to the nearest boat. The ship was on her beam ends, her top gallant yards under water. They then pushed off some distance from the ship, expecting her to sink in a very short time. Upon an examination of the stores they had been able to save, he discovered that they had only twelve quarts of water, and not a mouthful of provisions of any kind! The boats contained eleven men each, were leaky, and night coming on, they were obliged to bail them all night to keep them from sinking!

Next day, at day-light, they returned to the ship, no one daring to venture on board but the Captain, their intention being to cut away the masts, and fearful that the moment the masts were cut away, the ship would go down. With a single hatchet, the Captain went on board, cut away the mast when the ship righted. The boats then came up, and the men, by the sole aid of spades, cut away the chain cable from around the foremast, which got the ship nearly on her keel. The men then tied ropes round their bodies, got into the sea and cut holes through the decks to get out provisions. They could procure nothing but about five gallons of vinegar and twenty pounds of wet bread. The ship threatened to sink, and they deemed it imprudent to remain by her longer, so they set sail on their boats and left her.

They were in a dreadful state of anxiety, knowing that in a very few days, unless a kind Providence should direct them to fall in with some ship, they must all die by starvation and thirst, or that to sustain life, they would be obliged to eat each other's bodies as soon as life had departed? However, as long as they

had strength, they knew it was their duty to wait and watch patiently and trust to that good Being who had twice so signally saved them from the jaws of the monster of the deep, the day previous. Their only hope was in trying to reach a rainy latitude, that, from the rains that might fall they could sustain life.

With this hope they directed their course northwardly, and on the 22d of August, at about 5 o'clock, P. M., they had the indescribable joy of discerning a ship in the distance. They made a signal, and were soon answered, and in a short time they were reached by the good ship *Nantucket*, of Nantucket, Mass., Capt. Gibbs, who took them all on board, clothed and fed them and extended to them in every way the greatest hospitality.

Education of Idiots.

The giving of a rational mind to persons born in idiocy is a matter more difficult, than the restoration of reason to the insane. And yet experiments made upon a large scale have shown, that it is not in all cases a hopeless undertaking. Several institutions in Europe have been successful in the enterprise, to an encouraging extent. And more recently, like institutions have been put in operation here. The director of the institution in Berlin, Mr. Saegert, proceeds on the assumption, that the idiot has mind equal to others at birth; but the mind is obstructed in its growth—because deprived of communication with external objects, *through the bluntness of the senses*. Now if any means can be found, to awake the dormant senses, or any one of them, an avenue can be found to the mind through them, for its education. Instruction of the idiot then first begins, by an effort to call some of his senses into activity. He is brought within the hearing of music. If he is attracted by it, if he shows a gleam of pleasure, then the music is repeated, till his interest is aroused, and so one point is gained. Others are found to care nothing for music, but are attracted by pictures, and gay colors. Others become interested in simple games. By great pains they are brought to fix attention upon something, and to do something with regularity. The instructor, having found which of the senses is easiest reached, makes that the fulcrum to which he applies his lever.

The idiot school embraces pupils of ages from three to twenty—the majority under twelve. The lowest class are trained merely for the purpose of developing the senses. They are taught to beat a drum or roll a ball, or to walk, or to march. Those more advanced are taught to count, or to speak, or to give names to familiar things. Those still more advanced learn the alphabet. And this attained, they are put forward in the common branches of education. Some of those educated at the school in Berlin are now pursuing the ordinary avocations of life. While only a few real idiots can be brought thus far forward, there are none whose condition cannot be to some extent improved.

There is a similar institution in Paris, containing 150 boys. Sixty of these had learned to write; and some of them write an elegant hand. Here the pupils are trained in military exercises, and in singing hymns, composed expressly for them, with simple words and simple music. Nearly all join in the singing. The pupils are fond of the military drill and are so trained, as to be capable of performing some of the most intricate evolutions accurately and rapidly. Some who had been complete idiots perform the manual exercise with wooden guns, and go through with it, without a failure. Some complicate theatrical dances were also performed. Connected with the school are workshops in which some have made good proficiency as carpenters. Some also have become beautiful draughtsmen. Experience has shown that the case of idiots is no longer hopeless. In most cases they can be taught some simple and useful employment, and in some cases they can be brought up to complete rationality.

The Fam.

Wintering Stock.

MR. EDITOR:—For some days I have been thinking, how my poor neighbours' cattle will fare this coming cold winter! Not but that I have enough to occupy my thoughts in my own immediate affairs, but when these poor animals meet my gaze, cold and shivering as they are, in consequence of having been taken from liberal allowance of green food, and put immediately upon dry, and perhaps coarse meadow hay, or weather-beaten corn-fodder,

with not a spoonful of grain nor a root to lay their jaws to,—poor creatures! no wonder they dry up their milk, for they have nothing to make milk of, and no wonder they stand upon a piece of ground not larger than a half bushel, with all four feet almost together. And when Spring opens, and the warm sun strikes their skin, the vermin begin to work, and cause them to feel so miserable, they would fain run away from themselves, and surely they have no difficulty in running over the hills and rocks at an alarming rate, with their tails high in the air to receive the cooling breeze, their bodies being light, they are better adapted for a race than anything else! But to their relief, the grass soon springs up, and they begin to look a little more like cows than skeletons, yet the hard Winter they have passed, has nearly unfitted them for any profit to their owners during the Summer season.—And as they cannot afford to buy grain to give them the coming Winter, so both the poor cows and their owners will see hard times!—Now who is to blame? are the cows to blame? They have done as well as you could have expected under these circumstances. Surely the farmer who manages thus, must expect to see hard times, and he deserves it! "He that will not plough by reason of the cold," must expect to beg in harvest!

If you have not the means to keep your stock well, reduce it; two cows well fed, are more profit to the owner than half a dozen long-legged, woe-begone looking animals, that some people call cows, which look like steers wintered out in the woods on browse. Brother farmers, get you a good hay, straw and corn stalk cutter; cut your feed, put in a little grain, soften the same with a little water; it will make mastication easier, and consequently will digest better and afford more nourishment to your stock; besides, your poor hay, and corn fodder is turned to good account, and being sweetened by a little grain, goes off well, leaving no waste. By this mode of procedure, and measuring out to each his feed, you will be able to discover if each has enough; in order that he may escape the doom of those before named, add a little more to his or her mess if useful, taking care at the same time, that they are not robbed by their more avaricious neighbours. Green meat of some kind should be given, if you would expect perfect health. Feed three times a day with chopped feed; let their stomachs have time to digest what they eat. It is a mistake that they need be eating all the while. Solid feed is unlike green grass, you must remember; some people stand in the barn floor nearly half the time, to dish up a little at a time to keep their appetites good, forgetting, that if the health is preserved, though they feed but three times in twenty-four hours with the proper quality and quantity, they will clean all up, and even lick the floor. Try it, farmers. If I can get a handsome profit from one cow, well fed, you, who have half a dozen, by the rule of three, can get six times as much.—*Boston Cult.*

Packing Pork.

BY A PORK INSPECTOR.

This being about the time that the farmers kill and prepare their pork for market, and as a great deal of it is reduced in value by being improperly bled and cut up, I think it would be a great advantage, both to themselves and the buyers, were they to attend to the following rules:—

1st. They must not kill the pigs by striking them on the heads, as is too often done, thereby rendering the pork unsaleable; but cut their throats and allow them to bleed freely.

2d. With regard to cutting up the pig into pieces fit for barrelling; it should be laid on a block with its back to the person who is to cut it; who will first cut off the nose in line with the back part of the mouth, then the head in line with the ears; make a cut of the neck immediately before the shoulders; the head to be split into four pieces and the neck into two. Make a cut of the shoulders about five inches wide; split the cut through the back bone and across. Cut off the feet above the knee joint, and nick the bone close by the body. The whole pig to be cut into strips about five inches wide, which again are to be cut across into pieces at least four pounds weight, the hams to be done with, in the same manner as the shoulders.

3d. The barrel to be of good seasoned oak, well hooped with a bung-hole in the centre of a stave. The size of the barrel to be eighteen and a half inches in diameter (outside mea-

sure) at the head, and the full length of the staves twenty-nine inches.

4th. In packing, spread a layer of salt about an inch deep over the bottom of the barrel, then a layer of pork set upon edge, again a layer of salt and pork alternately, till the whole is packed, leaving out the rib pieces, for the top layer; leaving out the feet, tongue, brains, head, tail and nose. When packed, head the barrel tightly, which turn on its side, and pour into the bung-hole till the barrel is full, a strong pickle made by dissolving salt in cold water, till it is strong enough to float a potatoe, then plug up the bung-hole.

5th. Be careful to choose St. Ubes' or Turk's Island salt, of which there is a large quantity in market; and it will enhance the value of our pork at least from 3s. 9d. to 5s. per barrel. The pork of this country already stands first in the market, and commands a higher price and readier sale than any other, which attempts to compete with it, but it may itself improve by attending to the above rules; and were they adhered to, a great deal of the pork that is now obliged to be sold for prime, might be branded prime mess, which would command a cash market at an advance of at least two dollars on the barrel (the difference between the price of the two qualities;) and it is as easy to kill, cut up, and pack a barrel in a proper manner as otherwise, when the operator knows how.

Merchants who feel an interest in the prosperity of the trade, would do well to bring into the country the above mentioned kind of salt for packing pork, and no other, and thereby they would benefit both the producer and consumer.

N. LAVALLEE.

Green Crops.

We have from time to time alluded to the importance of our farmers turning their attention more directly to the cultivation of green crops as a fall and winter food for stock. It is, however, still to be regretted that there are among us some, and their name is legion, who are violently opposed to nearly all agricultural improvements. Such characters are always opposed to every thing which savors of innovation upon the old rotten grandfather systems. They continually advise the young to adopt the "old way"—nothing good can come of going into new notions, and adopting the new fangled systems advanced only by those who, instead of applying themselves practically to agricultural pursuits and labors, sit still in their well furnished studies or parlors, and farm only with pen and ink. There is, it is true, a wide difference between the practical farmer and the cloistered student, so far as regards the mere mechanical details of farming;—but for the life of us, dear readers, we cannot see why the farmer who learns of the practical man, and who, by dint of indefatigable study and observation, acquaints himself with all his most valued acquisitions, is not as good an instructor in the art, as the "practical man" himself. He is certainly possessed of some important advantages which the former cannot be supposed to enjoy. Being acquainted with the entire range of the current agricultural literature of the day, he must needs be better qualified to communicate than one who is not; and besides he has one other advantage. He has a much larger audience, and when his communications involve subjects of essential importance, the means of doing incomparably more good. His instructions are, besides, not liable to perish or be forgotten with the giving; they are committed to paper, and scattered broadcast over community, and will be read by millions an hundred years hence. One farmer boasts that he has "learned" thus and so of his neighbor by means of kindly oral communication. Could he not have "learned" as effectually had that neighbor written out his communication, and made it public through the agency of the press—and would not thousands have been benefited thereby instead of one, or, at most, an isolated few?—*Me. Cultivator.*

FATTENING FOWLS WITH POTATOES.

There is great profit in feeding, geese, turkeys and fowls of every sort, with potatoes and meal mixed; they will fatten in nearly one-half the time that they will on any kind of corn, or even meal itself. The potatoes must be bruised fine while hot, and the meal added when the mash is given to them.—*Selected.*

It is true, as poor Richard says, there is much to be done, and perhaps you are weak-handed; but stick to it steadily, and you will see great effect, for a constant dropping wears a stone.