

It may at first sight appear singular that subjects apparently so dissimilar as currents and whaling should be united to form the subject of one chapter. Before its conclusion, however, we trust to establish satisfactorily that the course of the great currents of the ocean, sweeping with them the proper food of the great cetaceous animals, determines not only the places to which they are in the habit of resorting, but the seasons at which they are to be found frequenting them.

In the devious and extensive cruise performed by the Exploring Expedition, many, and perhaps greater opportunities than had before been enjoyed by any one vessel or squadron were afforded for investigating the course and direction of currents. The field of research thus opened proved to be so vast that I cannot but regret that we had not possessed still greater facilities for prosecuting the inquiry than we could attain even in a voyage of such long duration. In particular, simultaneous observations in different parts of the ocean, and their continuance for months or even for the whole year, were requisite to render the results, that I believe I have attained, more satisfactory and conclusive. Enough, however, has I hope been done to excite the curiosity and rouse the attention of future navigators, by whose labours a sufficient number of facts may be collected upon which to found a theory that will admit of no question.

To obtain the greatest practicable number of experiments with the current log, of which mention has been made in the first chapter, was an object which claimed early attention, and which was kept constantly in view throughout the cruise. I was however aware, as all

CURRENTS AND WHALING.

CHAPTER XII.