

posed that a ship could hardly miss finding the animals. Such, however, is not the case. A vessel may visit all these places, and yet return home a "clean ship," if she happened to be out of season. It appears from experience that whales in their migrations congregate in the above-named places at certain times of the year, and those who are acquainted with the business endeavour to be early on the cruising-grounds. I shall now point out the times, according to the best information, at which the whales visit the several grounds, and although not a whaler, I hope to give such information as may be useful to this adventurous class of my countrymen.

For convenience of description the cruising-grounds may be considered as included within four distinct sections or belts.

These belts are from twenty to twenty-five degrees of latitude in width.

The first of which I shall speak is that between the equator and the northern tropic; the second, between the tropic and latitude  $50^{\circ}$  N.; the third, between the equator and the southern tropic; and the fourth, between the southern tropic and latitude  $50^{\circ}$  S.

Within the tropics, whales are almost always to be met with. There are, however, particular places within this zone where they chiefly congregate. Whales are found in the first belt on the north side of the equator, to the southward of the Sandwich Islands, and thence westward as far as the Mulgrave Islands, for the greater part of the year; but the only spot or space they are known to abound at any particular season within this belt, is to the westward of the Gallipagos; they pass and repass over the rest of this space in their migrations, and may generally be found near to, or around the small islands.

In the second belt, they range from the coast of Japan to the northwest coast of America, and California; this they frequent from May till November. In the month of July they are found off the Bonin Islands, and between them and the coast of Japan. They frequent the space lying to the northward of the Hawaiian Islands, and comprehended between the parallels of  $28^{\circ}$  and  $35^{\circ}$  N., and within the meridians of  $145^{\circ}$  and  $165^{\circ}$  W., from June to October; and resort to the northwest coast of America in August and September; and to that of California in November and January.

The third belt comprises the ocean from the coast of South America to the Kingsmill Group, including the Marquesas, Society, and Friendly Islands, the Samoan and Feejee Groups. Within these are the spaces known as the "on shore and off-shore grounds." The latter the whalers frequent from November to February, and along this third belt they are found until the months of July and August, by which time they