

generally recruit in the bay of Talcahuana, or in the port of Payta, in Peru, and are ready to take up the season on the "off-shore ground" in November.

Vessels leaving the United States in the beginning of summer, would do better to take the route round Cape Horn, reaching Chili or Peru in time to recruit before the month of November, at which time they repair to the "off-shore ground," where they remain for one, two, or three months; thence pass to the Marquesas Islands and to the westward of them, and thence to the west, along the equator, as far as the Mulgrave Islands and the coast of Japan. Returning, they proceed to the northwest coast of America, California, and finally reach the Sandwich Islands to recruit by the months of October or November. Other vessels pass directly from the "off-shore ground" to the neighbourhood of the Sandwich Islands, where they spend the months of February, March, and a part of April; they then proceed to the latitude of 30° , and continue their cruising on each side of that parallel between the meridians of 145° and 165° W., until October, when they repair to the Hawaiian Islands to recruit.

It will readily be seen that there is ample room for a vast fleet to operate in these numerous and extensive spaces, without the vessels interfering with each other, and many more might be advantageously employed. An opinion has indeed gained ground within a few years that the whales are diminishing in numbers; but this surmise, as far as I have learned from the numerous inquiries, does not appear to be well founded.

They have indeed become wilder, or as some of the whalers express it, "more scary," and, in consequence, not so easy to capture; but if we consider the numbers that continue to be yearly taken, there will, I think, be no reason to suppose that any great decrease has occurred. On an average, it requires fifty whales to fill a ship, and it would therefore take about five thousand whales annually, to supply the quantity of oil that is imported. This would appear but a small proportionate number, if these animals were as prolific as our herds on shore, when it is considered that they have a feeding-ground of twenty millions of square miles.

The number of right whales captured is to the spermaceti in the proportion of about two to one. The former are principally found on the coasts, in the bays, and even in the harbours, and are far more numerous than the sperm whale. They are pursued to the greatest advantage in small vessels. They frequent the coast of Chili during the summer season, from October to March, and are to be found on the northwest coast of America and that of California, during the northern