

The GREENLAND WHALE FISHERY

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IN EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND FORTY-FOUR
ON MARCH THE EIGHTEENTH DAY
WE HOISTED OUR COLORS TO THE TOP OF THE MAST
AND FOR GREENLAND PULLED AWAY, BRAVE BOYS
AND FOR GREENLAND PULLED AWAY

THE LOOKOUT ON THE MAINMAST STOOD
HIS SPYGLASS IN HIS HAND
"THERE'S A WHALE, THERE'S A WHALE,
THERE'S A WHALE-FISH," HE CRIED
"AND SHE BLOWS AT EVERY SPAN, BRAVE BOYS,
AND SHE BLOWS AT EVERY SPAN!"

THE CAPTAIN STOOD ON THE QUARTERDECK
AND ICE WAS IN HIS EYE
"OVERHAUL, OVERHAUL, LET YOUR JIB-SHEET FALL
AND GO PUT YOUR BOATS TO SEA, BRAVE BOYS -
AND GO PUT YOUR BOATS TO SEA!"

THE BOATS WERE LOWERED AND THE MEN ABOARD
THE WHALE WAS FULL IN VIEW
RESOLVED, RESOLVED WAS EACH WHALER-MAN BOLD
FOR TO STEER WHERE THE WHALE-FISH BLEW, BRAVE BOYS
FOR TO STEER WHERE THE WHALE-FISH BLEW!

THE HARPOON STRUCK AND THE LINE PAID OUT
WITH A SINGLE FLOURISH OF HER TAIL
SHE CAPSIZED OUR BOAT, AND WE LOST FIVE MEN
AND WE DID NOT CATCH THAT WHALE, BRAVE BOYS
AND WE DID NOT CATCH THAT WHALE!

THE LOSING OF THOSE FIVE JOLLY MEN
IT GRIEVED OUR CAPTAIN SORE
BUT THE LOSING OF THAT SPERM WHALE FISH
NOW IT GRIEVED HIM TEN TIMES MORE, BRAVE BOYS
NOW IT GRIEVED HIM TEN TIMES MORE!

"UP ANCHOR NOW!" OUR CAPTAIN HE CRIED
"FOR THE WINTER STARS DO APPEAR
AND IT'S TIME WE LEFT THIS COLD COUN-TER-EE
AND FOR ENGLAND WE WILL STEER, BRAVE BOYS
AND FOR ENGLAND WE WILL STEER!

"FOR GREENLAND IS A BARREN LAND
A LAND THAT BEARS NO GREEN
WHERE THERE'S ICE AND SNOW
AND THE WHALE-FISHES BLOW
AND THE DAYLIGHT'S SELDOM SEEN, BRAVE BOYS
AND THE DAYLIGHT'S SELDOM SEEN!"