THE WHALEMAN AND OTHER SEA-SONGS

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The Whaleman and Other Sea-songs by John Spollon

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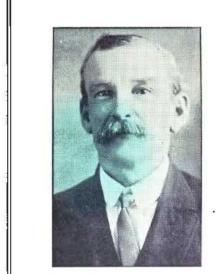
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and Other Sea-Songs

BY

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INTRODUCTION

"The thought was seized upon by the people of New Bedford, who wondered that nobody had thought of the matter before."

The above is an extract from one of many articles written on the subject of "The Whaleman," and his Statue, which was proposed in a little song written and published ten years ago, come May.

There may be divers reasons, and none of them wonderful, why the suggestion was not offered before.

Perhaps people addicted to wondering are not given to thinking. The Scriptures show us in sundry places that people used to "marvel" an awful lot in the old times before the Public School became an Institution.

Maybe the industrious and thrifty people of New Bedford, with capacity for thought, do their thinking strictly along commercial lines—seeing that Sentiment does not pay.

The New Bedford Think-smith may be a Realist—running his Thought Factory with nothing in view but the shortest and easiest way to realize a dollar, and make that increase and multiply itself ad infinitum.

The Idealist who can get a sentimental thought printed in a journal devoted to trade and commerce may perhaps have some hypnotic influence over his friend the publisher; or the latter may himself be an idealist, unfortunately bound by chains of circumstance to sordid commerce.

Again, ten years ago in New Bedford, many of the people may have been thinking that it was high time for that rapidly growing city to have decent sidewalks and properly laid sewers. Such people would never think of ornamenting a park or public square with money that should be laid out on public utilities. After all—there has always got to be a First Time; and it matters little who starts something so long as, once started, it keeps going.

The ballad, entitled "The Whaleman," first appeared in Fibre and Fabric—a Boston trade journal.

The New Bedford Standard promptly reprinted it, and strongly advocated the embodiment of the idea.

The fast-growing city, with its enormous necessary expenses, was not in the financial condition to undertake the work; and now, after the lapse of ten years, it has remained for a public-spirited citizen with generosity and civic pride, to present to the city a fitting memorial of the Whaleman.

Long may it stand—a monument, not only to the mariners who dragged wealth to the shore and laid the foundation of a great city, but to the munificence of William W. Crapo.

The Wreck of The Kathleen first appeared in The New Bedford Morning Mercury with this editorial comment prefixed:

"The following verses were written by John Spollen, whose poem advocating a Whaleman's Monument inspired a movement which should not be permitted to lapse."

The following poems first appeared in The New Bedford Standard:

"The Old-Time Man o' War,"
"New Bedford."

"The Fisherman's Mother" is from a book entitled "Mary Ann, and Other Poems."

JOHN SPOLLON.

Old Town, Maine.

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THE WHALEMAN By Bela L. Pratt

(William W. Crapo's gift to the City of New Bedford)

"Let his monument stand, with his harpoon in hand, Sturdy son of the sea who dragged wealth to the land."