



### THE AUTHOR:

Chester Scott Howland, the son of a whaleship captain, was born and has lived all his life in New Bedford, Massachusetts. His ancestors were seafaring folk and he has been thoroughly steeped in the ways and traditions of the whale hunters.

Ten thousand whalemens once sailed from this romantic seaport whose history goes back to the days of the Vikings. Here, on the shores of Buzzards Bay, named the "Beautiful Bay" by Bartholomew Gosnold in the early 1600's, Mr. Howland, as boy

and man, has absorbed by sight and narrative the lusty story of those "that do business in great waters." He believes with Captain Watts, of the U.S.S. *Concord*, "It was such men who made America what it is today, a race of people with the courage, the determination and the ability to tackle every obstacle and overcome it."

A lecturer and author, Mr. Howland has presented his illustrated "Story of the American Whalemens" to audiences in nearly every state of the Union. He has an almost religious belief that every young man should know of the American whale hunters, of the great odds they faced, and of their bravery and skill as seamen.

Besides a number of magazine articles, Mr. Howland has written an earlier book, *Thar She Blows!*, published in 1951.



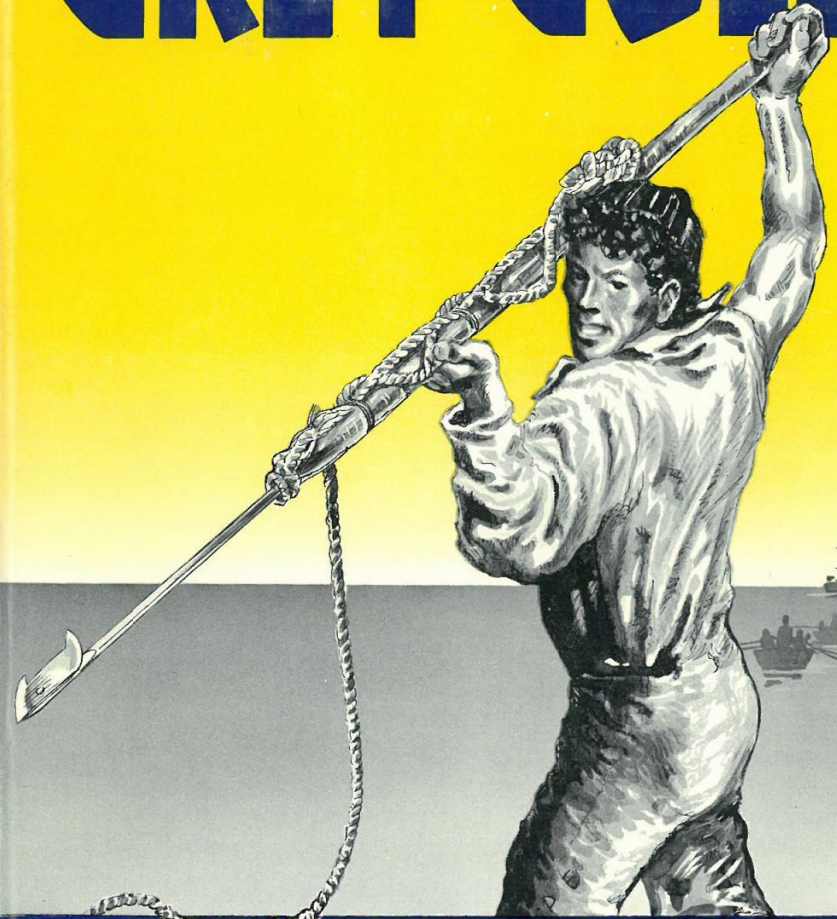
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WHALE  
HUNTERS  
ABOARD  
THE  
GREY  
GOLD



HOWLAND

# WHALE HUNTERS ABOARD THE GREY GOLD



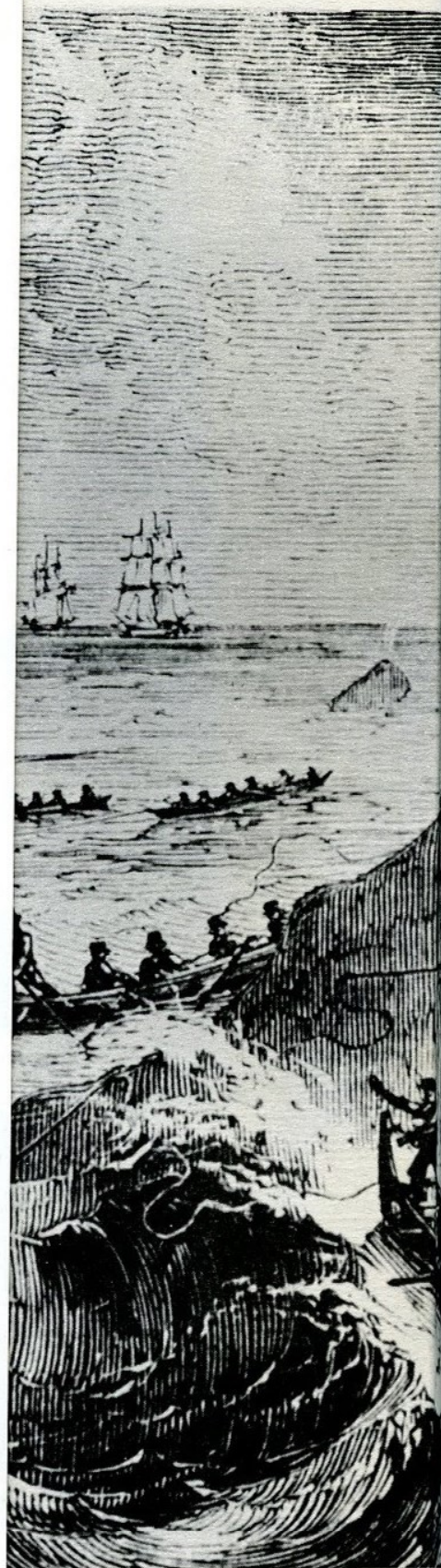
A TALE OF THE SEA AND OF  
THE MEN WHO WIN HER FORTUNES

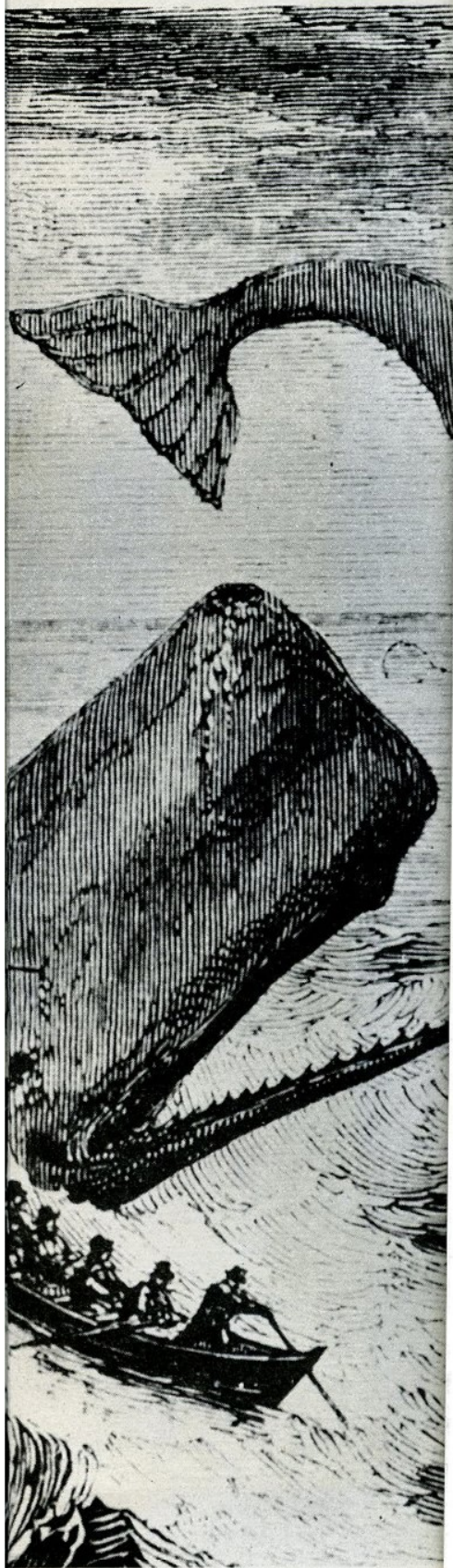
by CHESTER S. HOWLAND

CAXTON

Once, long ago, a young Indian lad of the Wampanoag tribe in early-day Massachusetts was on a whale-hunting expedition with his father, an older brother, and two other braves. Just as a sudden wind struck their war canoe, a giant whale struck them with his flukes and knocked the older men into the sea. They were all drowned, and only the Indian boy survived. He, without paddles for his craft, drifted far to the south. A whaler, Captain Baker, whose home was in the port of Sippican—now the summer-resort town of Marion on Buzzards Bay—found the lad when on a sheepshearing expedition to one of the islands in the bay. He took the boy home with him and, as "John Baker," he became the captain's adopted son. Captain Baker was soon off on another whaling voyage aboard his ship, the *Albatross*, and this time he did not return. It was reported that the *Albatross* was lost with all hands.

When John Baker was sixteen, he shipped as a green hand on the *Grey Gold*, under the command of Captain Ishmael Swain, bound for the South Pacific on a four-year voyage in search of sperm whales. His adventures were those which could come only to a youth of those days on a long sea voyage aboard a New England whaleship.





Though the youngest member of the crew aboard the *Grey Gold*, John Baker was appointed to keep the record of the voyage. And years later, when he was an old man, he still found pleasure in reading of his first experiences aboard a whaleship, even though he had gone on many later expeditions.

Homeward bound, it was he who had harpooned the great sperm whale that had taken his foster father's life. For deeply embedded in the flesh and blubber of the whale was a harpoon bearing, close to its barb, Captain Baker's own initials and the name of the ship, the *Albatross*.

All the characteristic dangers and spirited adventures which came to whalemens aboard old-time square-rigged New England whaleships will be found in this account of Indian John's voyage. You will learn why the ship was named the *Grey Gold*, how a mysteriously abandoned vessel was discovered, and how, from a group of shipwrecked seamen found on a lonely island, John Baker learned the story of his foster father's death.

The book, **WHALE HUNTERS ABOARD THE GREY GOLD**, contains twenty pages of illustrations, reproduced from old prints and photographs. The author, born in New Bedford, Massachusetts, has lived there all his life.