

## OCCURRENCE OF FUR SEALS IN MID-OCEAN.

By **LIEUT. Z. L. TANNER, U. S. N.**

[Letter to Prof. S. F. Baird.]

At your request I send you the following extracts from my remark book during a passage from Yokohama to San Francisco in the Pacific mail steamer City of Peking:

June 25, 1878.—Latitude at noon,  $42^{\circ} 55' 53''$  north, longitude  $162^{\circ} 14' 45''$  east. During the morning passed branches of a tree; saw a couple of seals, several ducks, albatross, and large numbers of jelly-fish.

June 26.—Latitude noon,  $42^{\circ} 53' 17''$  north, longitude  $167^{\circ} 16' 30''$  east. A. M.—Several pieces of driftwood seen; ducks, whales, and whale birds in sight occasionally. P. M.—Passed several pieces of driftwood—two pine trees 60 to 80 feet in length.

June 28.—Latitude noon,  $42^{\circ} 43' 22''$  north, longitude  $177^{\circ} 43' 06''$  east. A. M.—Several seals and ducks seen.

June 30.—Latitude noon,  $43^{\circ} 05' 18''$  north, longitude  $167^{\circ} 41' 06''$  west. A. M.—Passed a pine tree  $1\frac{1}{2}$  foot diam., bark gone, surface clean.

July 1.—Latitude noon,  $43^{\circ} 01' 14''$  north, longitude  $161^{\circ} 23' 30''$  west. A. M.—Whales, seals, puffins, &c., seen during the day.

NOTE.—Puffins mentioned in this day's remarks are the ducks of previous days.

July 2.—Latitude noon,  $43^{\circ} 05' 12''$  north, longitude  $155^{\circ} 26' 37''$  west. A. M.—Whales seen during the day. P. M.—A large school of fish seen during the evening.

NOTE.—Uncertain as to kind of fish; last called them skip-jacks.

July 3.—Latitude noon,  $43^{\circ} 02' 06''$  north, longitude  $145^{\circ} 41' 30''$  west. A. M.—Porpoises seen during the morning. P. M.—A large school of fish resembling herring seen during the afternoon. Passed a large drift log covered with barnacles at 5.30 p. m.

July 4.—Latitude noon,  $43^{\circ} 05' 56''$  north, longitude  $144^{\circ} 16' 00''$  west. Whales and a small number of Portuguese men-of-war (vellala) were seen during the day. P. M.—Whales seen during the afternoon.

July 5.—Latitude noon,  $42^{\circ} 41' 52''$  north, longitude  $138^{\circ} 30' 15''$  west, A. M.—Whales and a small number of vellalas seen during the day. The usual number (3) of gonies following the ship.

NOTE.—The three gonies referred to were usually with the ship, until we approached land at either end of the route. Other birds were seen almost daily, but it seldom happened that those mentioned above were absent for any length of time.

I have no doubt seals, &c., were seen on other voyages, but my books are not at hand to-day.

U. S. F. C. STEAMER ALBATROSS,

NAVY YARD, WASHINGTON, D. C., December 29, 1882.