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Charles Francis Hall's Expedition Diary Volume III, First Expedition August 1860 - November 1860

Extracted on Apr-19-2024 10:51:40

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1860

Wednesday

Sept 5

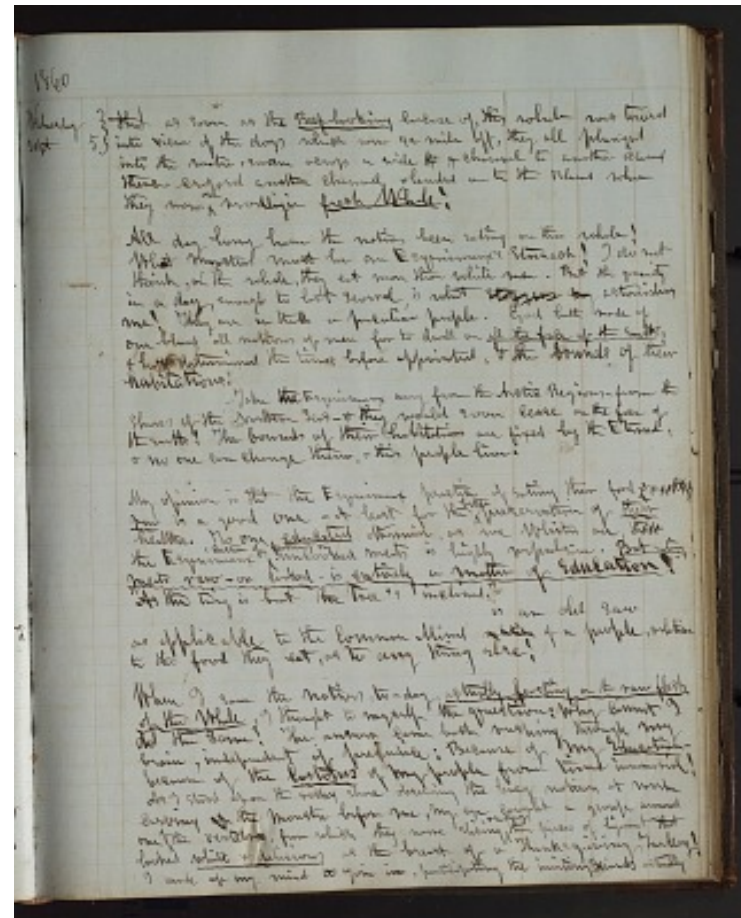
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that as soon as the Beef looking carcass of this whale was towed into view of the dogs which were 1/2 mile off, they all plunged into the water, swam across a wide channel to another island thence crossed another channel & landed on to the island where they now [^][[are]] revelling in fresh Whale! All day long have the natives been eating on this whale! What monsters must be an Esquimaux's stomach! I do not think, on the whole, they eat more than white men. But the quantity in a day, enough to last several is what ~~stagger~~ staggers my ~~astonishes~~ astonishes me! They are in truth a peculiar people. God hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth & hath determined the times before appointed, & the bounds of their habitations'.

Take the Esquimaux away from the Arctic Regions- from the shores of the Northern Seas- & they would soon cease on the face of the earth! The bounds of their habitations are fixed by the Eternal, & no one can change them, & this people live.

My opinion is that the Esquimaux practice of eating their food ~~mostly~~ raw is a good one - at least for the [^][[better]] preservation of their ~~healths~~ healths. The one educated ~~otherwise~~ otherwise, as we Whites are, ~~their~~ ~~the~~ Esquimaux [^][[custom of eating]] uncooked meat is highly repulsive. But eating meats raw - or cooked - is entirely a matter of education! "As the twig is bent the tree's inclined," is an old saw as applicable to the Common Mind ~~relative~~ of a people, relative to the good they eat, as to any thing else!

When I saw the nation, to-day, actually feasting on the raw flesh of the Whale, I thought to myself the question: why cannot I do the same? The answer came back rushing through my brain, independent of prejudice: Because of my Education - because of the Customs of my people from time immemorial! As I stood upon the rocky shore observing the busy nation at work carving ~~the~~ the monster before me, my eye caught a group around one [^][[of]] the vertebrae, from which they were slicing [^][[& eating]] thin pieces of ligament that looked white & delicious as the breast of a Thanksgiving Turkey! I made up my mind to join in, participating the inviting (?) ~~actually~~



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