

TUMULT IN THE SEA.

Terrific Force of a Marine Upheaval Off Cape Horn.

A sailing ship rounding Cape Horn was caught in a dead calm, something almost unprecedented in that stormy latitude. The sky was filled with a light haze, and the sea was flat and lead colored. About 10 o'clock on the morning of the second day the ship began to shake violently, the masts whipped and bent like fish poles, and everything movable above and below came down with a clatter. It was like striking a rock, only the shock was less pronounced at first, but increased in violence during the thirty seconds it lasted. The sea heaved in oily swells with a strange, hoarse murmur, and it continued to be agitated after the tremors ceased.

Half an hour later fish by the thousands began to rise to the surface until it was covered with them. Forty-seven whales were counted, many cowfish fully eight feet across, sharks without number and seals by the hundreds. They were evidently stunned with the force of some terrific marine upheaval, and when struck with a pole by one of the sailors showed only faint signs of life. In twenty minutes after the first fish arose to the surface they began to drop out of sight like pieces of lead. Whether they were stunned and, on recovering, immediately dived beneath the waves in a panic, seeking safety in the depths, or whether they died from the shock and, instead of floating as dead fish do, were drawn under by some submarine whirlpool, were scientific questions too deep for the skipper, but half a dozen of the smaller fish hauled aboard by the cook for dinner were quite dead when examined. The calm continued twenty-four hours longer before the ocean resumed its usual aspect and a wind from the southeast permitted the ship to continue its course.

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