



A Monstrous Sea Serpent,

The largest ever seen in America,

Has just made its appearance in Gloucester Harbour.

Cape Ann, and has been seen by hundreds of

Respectable Citizens.

The Editor of the Salem Gazette, says:—We have in our possession an extract of a letter from John Low, Esq. to his son in this town, dated Gloucester, Thursday afternoon, August 11, 1817.

"There was seen on Monday and on Tuesday morning playing about our harbor, between Eastern Point and Ten pound Island, a SNAKE with his head and body about eight feet out of water, his head in perfect shape as large as the head of a horse, his body is judged to be about FORTY-FIVE OR FIFTY FEET IN LENGTH, it is thought he will girt about 3 feet round the body, and his sting is about 4 feet in length.

While writing the above a person has called in, who says that there are two to be seen, playing from the Stage-head into the harbor inside of Ten pound Island.

The spectators are Mr. Charles Smith, Mr. John Proctor and several others. A number of our sharp shooters are in pursuit of him but cannot make a ball penetrate his head. Another party is just going in pursuit with guns, harpoons &c. Our small craft is fearful of venturing out a fishing.

The above can be attested to by twenty different people of undoubted veracity."

In addition to this account the Salem Register states, that the Serpent is extremely rapid in its motions which are in all directions, that it shews a length of 50 feet; that a man who discharged his musket within 30 feet of the Serpent, says its head was partly white and that he hit it, that a large sum had been offered for it; that "it appears in joints like wooden buoys on a net rope almost as large as a barrel, that musket balls appear to have no effect on it, that it appears like a string of gallon kegs 100 feet long."

The editor of the Register quotes an account of a Sea Serpent seen on the coast in 1740, something like it. It had a head like that of a horse, and as he moved he looked like a row of large casks following in a right line.

The Boston Daily Advertiser in speaking of this *Monstrous Serpent*, says:—We have seen several letters from Gloucester, which describe a prodigious Snake that has made its appearance in Cape Ann Harbour. It was first seen by some fishermen, 10 or 12 days ago, but it was then generally believed to be the creature of the imagination. But he has since come within the harbor

of Gloucester, and has been seen by hundreds of people. He is declared by some persons who approach within 10 or 15 yards of him, to be 60 or 70 feet in length, round, and of the diameter of a barrel. Others state his length variously, from 50 to 100 feet. His motions are serpentine, extremely varied, and exceedingly rapid. He turns himself completely round almost instantaneously. He sometimes dart forward, with his head out of water, at the rate of a mile in 3 minutes, leaving a wake behind, of half a mile in length. His head, as large as the head of a horse, is shaped somewhat like that of a large dog, is raised about 8 feet out of water and is partly white, the other part black. He appears to be full of joints and resembles a string of buoys on a net rope, as is set in the water to catch herring. Others describe him as like a string of water casks. His back is black. Various attempts have been made, without success, to take him. Four boats went out on Thursday, filled with adventurous sailors and experienced gunners, armed with muskets, harpoons, &c. Three muskets were discharged at him from a distance of 30 feet, two balls were thought to hit his head, but without effect. He immediately after plunged into the water, and disappeared for a short time, after which he moved off to the outer harbor, and was seen no more that night. A number of persons are employed in making a net of cod-line, of sufficient size to take him. It is conjectured that he has resorted to this harbor for the purpose of preying upon a very numerous shoal of herrings, which have lately appeared there. If he has been instrumental, as is supposed, in driving these herring into the harbor, he has rendered an essential service to the town.

The Salem Gazette of the 19th inst. says, "We are informed, that on Sunday this creature was seen playing sometimes within 15 or 20 feet of the shore, affording a better opportunity to observe him than had before occurred. Gentlemen from Gloucester state, that he appeared to them even of greater magnitude than had before been represented, and should judge from their own observation, that he was as much as 150 feet in length, and as big round as a barrel. They saw him open an enormous mouth, and are of opinion that he is cased in shell.

Aug. 22, 1817.