

Whaling was resumed from Pot Harbour where the *Corinthian* remained until January 1856. After the heady success at Heard, the return for whaling was meagre: Rogers who was apparently in charge of the *Mechanic*, recorded taking only a humpback on 23 April and a right whale on 4 June. Thereafter the four tenders took 11 whales in June, five in July and two in August, probably mainly humpbacks. During the last week in July, the customary brief elephanting cruise was made to check the southern beaches for winter stragglers.

The *Marcia* was absent between 20 March and 30 May, having been despatched to Capetown with Rogers' report to his owners, Perkins and Smith, on the new island and his recommendations that they urgently despatch at least one additional ship for this promising new field. The response was immediate. Perkins and Smith bought the 420-ton ship *Laurens* which was despatched under Captain Franklin Smith, Junior, on 17 September 1855.²³ Clearly, however, the discovery was an ill-kept secret for two other businessmen followed suit with newly purchased ships which set forth in October.²⁴

Meanwhile the elephanting season was resumed on Desolation in early September with the *Mechanic* operating along the north and especially the north-west coasts throughout the normal season until the New Year.

On 20 January 1856, Rogers, once again on the *Corinthian*, wrote 'Good weather, got all ready for Heard's Island' which is his first mention of that name. On 23 January 'came to anchor in Corinthian Bay [Heard Island] with the *Mechanic*, *Marcia* and *Laurens*'. A busy and lucrative period ensued. On 1 February Rogers wrote 'went to the weather bay and took off some blubber. Come on to blow from the eastward and had to stay onshore all night with 30 men and stayed in Captain Smith's [new] house. His men and ours counted 74 men.' The *Franklin* is also mentioned at Heard Island on 7 February, and on 13 February the brig *Zoe* arrived there too. It took the *Corinthian* less than a month to complete her cargo for she left Heard for Desolation on 20 February. After making the necessary preparations there for the voyage home she departed in company with two tenders, the *Atlas* and the *Franklin*, on 10 March.

Rogers mentions a week spent en route at St Helena, but concludes his journal when the *Corinthian* reached New London on 9 June 1856. Within the next two weeks, four other vessels arrived home from Desolation and Heard Island. Their cargoes were as follows:

	Whale oil	Bone	Length of voyage
ship <i>Corinthian</i>	3,208 barrels	21,937 lb	31 months
schooner <i>Marcia</i>	218 barrels	—	32 months
schooner <i>Atlas</i>	115 barrels	—	58 months
schooner <i>Franklin</i>	133 barrels	—	59 months