This maritime scene shows the ship Alert departing for her second whaling voyage out of New London harbor. The Alert is portrayed twice here, from both the bow and the stern side. The Alert spent 34 years at sea and her voyages trace the shifts in 19th century commerce and trade. Built in Boston in 1828, the Alert first spent six years traversing the globe in the China trade, then nine years carrying animal hides from California to the tanneries of Boston, and finally, 19 years whaling out of New London.