

on the west coast of Africa. The south-east trades now compelled us to alter course, and we stood to the westward so as to reach St. Paul's Rocks, nearly 900 miles distant. The Guinea current had been investigated; and it was found we had fallen in with the Equatorial current, which continued with us until we were near the coast of Brazil. The dredgings obtained were particularly rich and interesting, and the frequent soundings showed we had been sailing over an average depth of 2200 fathoms.

On the 27th August land was reported, and as we neared St. Paul's Rocks, so the little pinnacles in the midst of the ocean became clearer and clearer. There was deep water close to; so we secured to the lee-side by means of a large hawser.

The rocks are situated in  $0^{\circ} 58'$  north latitude, and  $29^{\circ} 15'$  west longitude. They are 540 miles from the coast of South America, and 350 from Fernando Noronha. The highest point is only about 60 feet above the level of the sea. In moderately fine weather a landing can usually be effected. Hundreds of sea-birds frequent them; but there was not a single plant or moss to be found, nor any fresh water to be obtained.

During the two days of our stay the rocks were alive with surveyors, naturalists, and others. Fish was to be obtained in abundance. A thorough geological examination was made, with a view to test the practicability of erecting a lighthouse, as a monu-