

lay from seventy to eighty eggs at a time, and repeat this operation two or three times in a season. The eggs are an inch and a half in diameter, and covered with a soft semi-calcareous shell.

A week was spent very pleasantly at Ascension, Captain East, R.N., and the officers of the island under his command doing their utmost to make our stay amongst them agreeable. However, after completing with stores, there was nothing further to detain us; so on the morning of April 3rd we proceeded on our voyage, and, when in the offing, remained a few hours, swinging ship, both for azimuth and magnetic corrections. On its conclusion a course was shaped north for the Cape de Verde Islands, distant some 1800 miles.

Sounding and trawling were frequent on our course over an average depth of 2000 fathoms; crossing the Equator on the 7th April, for the sixth time. Previous to this, in latitude $4^{\circ} 10'$ south, we lost the south-east trade-wind, and for more than a week afterwards we were steaming through a tedious and depressing region of calms and squalls of rain off the African coast. Its effect on the health and spirits of us all was most enervating; the oppressive and damp heat made it one of the most unpleasant parts of the cruise; calms and head-winds accompanied us each day. At length the island of Santiago was in sight, and early on the morning of the 16th April we anchored off the town of Praya. From what could