

of the breakers might be the first notice given to a passing ship, of their proximity. The birds, numbers of which make these islets their home, were remarkably quiet during the stay, and it was evident that no dependence could be placed on their giving warning; it is true that no lights were shown at night, lest a passing ship might be drawn into danger, and it is well known that birds are generally attracted by a ship's lights, round which they circle uttering their discordant cries, still, it would be an imprudent thing to trust to their doing so always, nor would they probably be attracted by a ship's lights until she was in dangerous proximity to the rocks. Under these circumstances, and looking to the fact that the islets are situated in the strength of the Equatorial Current, it is evident that nothing but their small extent has prevented their becoming the scene of numerous shipwrecks, for the lead is not of the slightest use in their vicinity.

A lighthouse erected here would be of great advantage to passing ships, for, not only would it divest the rocks of their present dangerous character, but it would render them of positive benefit to the navigator, as, owing to the depth of water surrounding them, ships would be able to run boldly for them, either by night or day, and so correct their chronometers. Nor would there be much difficulty in erecting a building, as there is a level space 100 by 40 feet on the large S.W. islet, which would afford ample room, and would require little preparation for the foundation. A derrick rigged out from the shore, or better still, a light bridge thrown across the cove, would render landing sufficiently easy in all weathers likely to be experienced in this locality, so that the work might proceed uninterruptedly. By erecting the lighthouse on the summit of one of the small rocky islets, an additional elevation of some 30 feet would be gained, but considerable labour would be required to cut a suitable flat for the foundations. Should a lighthouse ever be erected here, arrangements for condensing water would have to be made, as the only fresh water that could be possibly obtained on the rocks would be from passing showers.

Fish are plentiful and good,¹ and afford good sport with the rod, but the fishing line must not be weighted. Birds were seen hovering in thousands over the rocks as they

¹ In his Report on the Shore Fishes (Zool. Chall. Exp., part vi. p. 4, 1880) Dr. Günther gives the following list of the species collected :—

Holocentrum sancti-pauli, Günth.
Caranx ascensionis, Forst.
Glyphidodon saxatilis, Linn.
Cossyphus rufus, Linn.
PlatyGLOSSUS cyanostigma, Cuv. Val.
Enchelycore nigricans, Bonnat.
Balistes buniva, Lac.

He states "evidently many more species might have been collected during a longer stay. The fauna is composed of West Indian forms, with some of the species found at Ascension and St. Helena. It is not surprising that a distinct, and apparently undescribed, species of the widely spread genus *Holocentrum* should prove to be peculiar to this isolated locality."