

what sharks they can at sea, since their stomachs may contain rare cuttle fish which may not be procured by any other means. The sharks caught were always suspended over the screw well of the ship. It was amusing on the first occasion on which one was got on board, sprawling and lashing about on the deck, to see two spaniels belonging to officers on board put their bristles up and growl, ready to fly at the fish. The dogs would probably have lost their heads in its mouth if not driven back.

Sometimes the sharks were bold enough and would bite at a bit of pork hung over the ship's side on the regulation shark hook which is supplied to ships in the navy, and which is an iron crook as thick as one's little finger, and mounted on a heavy chain. No shark was hooked during the voyage which was large enough to require such a hook. Nearly all the sharks caught and seen were very small, from five to seven feet in length. The largest obtained was, I think, one netted at San Jago, Cape Verde Islands, which was 14 feet in length. Large sharks seem scarce. I was disappointed, and had expected to meet with much larger ones on so long a voyage. The largest shark known seems to be *Carcharodon rondelettii* of Australia. There are in the British Museum the jaws of a specimen of this species which was $36\frac{1}{2}$ feet in length. (Günther, "Catalogue of Fishes.") The "Challenger" dredged in the Pacific Ocean in deep water numerous teeth of what must be an immensely large species of this genus. The great Basking-shark (*Selache maxima*), a harmless beast with very minute teeth, ranging from the Arctic seas to the coast of Portugal, has been known to attain a length of more than 30 feet.

Sharks occasionally seize the patent logs, which being of bright brass and constantly towed, twirling behind ships, no doubt appear to them like spinning baits intended for their use. The pilot fish often mistakes a ship for a large shark, and swims for days just before the bows, which it takes for the shark's snout. After a time the fish becomes wiser and departs, no doubt thinking it has got hold of a very stupid shark, and hungrily wondering why its large companion does not seize some food and drop it some morsels. The "Suckers" often make the same mistake, and cling to a ship for days when they have lost their shark. I fancy that porpoises and whales, when they accompany a ship for several days, think they are attending a large whale. A Hump-back whale followed the "Challenger" for several days in the South Pacific.

Island of St. Thomas, March 16th to 24th, 1873.—The island of St. Thomas, one of the Virgin Islands, or Danish