

closely similar nodules to these in ten fathoms off the Philippine Islands, in bushelfuls. These nodules were living masses of *Corallinaceæ*, but loose, rounded, and unattached, yet covering and composing the sea bottom. The basalt, undermined by the cropping out of the limestone, falls in large masses, and splitting off with great regularity leaves the cliff with a remarkably smooth vertical surface.

Red or precious Coral occurs at San Jago, and also at St. Vincent. There are four or five Spanish boats, and seven belonging to Italians, engaged in the fishery for it at San Jago. It occurs in about 100 to 120 fathoms, and is dragged for with swabs as in the Mediterranean: the strands of the swabs are made up into a net with about a four-inch mesh. A duty of a dollar a kilogram is paid to the Government on the coral.

A pair of huge fish came round the ship whilst at anchor in the harbour during the afternoon; one, supposed to be the male, was struck with a harpoon, but after some time managed to draw it out by its struggles; it twisted up the harpoon, and was said even to have moved the ship in its throes. I did not see the fish, but from the description, coupled with the fact that there were a pair of them, it seemed probable that the fish were the huge ray *Cephaloptera*, the "Devil fish," which has curious horn-like projections sticking out in front on either side of the mouth. The fish were described as "as big as an ordinary dining-room table." \*

The voyage from San Jago to St. Paul's Rocks occupied nineteen days. When we were two days out some swallows paid us a visit, flying behind the ship. We ran at first parallel with the African coast, and then stretched over westwards to St. Paul's Rocks. We passed first through a region where we had a pretty steady south-west wind, an African land breeze or monsoon. Here we had occasional heavy showers, but not so much rain as was to be expected, since we were passing a region where it rains on an average for seven hours out of every twenty-four, all the year round. We next steamed through the belt of equatorial calms to reach the south-east trade winds, and left the Guinea current, which was running at the rate of 21 miles in 24 hours. We entered the trade wind on August 21st, and the air became damp and cooler than before, and we were soon running before the wind at the rate of seven or eight knots.

\* For an account of a visit to Porto Praya, see G. Bennett, "Wanderings in New South Wales," Vol. I., p. 15. London, R. Bentley, 1834.