

hours daily on Government plantations. Some of these convicts go out fishing on small rafts made of three or four logs lashed together, provided with a small stool for a seat. A basket for the fish is placed on the raft in front of the seat, and a small fishing-rod is stuck up behind.

The men steer these rafts with great dexterity through the surf with a paddle, usually standing up to paddle, and sitting down to fish. At a distance, the raft being almost entirely under water, the men look as if walking on the water. These rafts were termed "catamarans" by the naval officers. Sailors are apt to apply this term to any out-of-the-way canoe or boat for which they have no other name. I believe the word is of South American origin. No boats of any kind are allowed on Fernando Noronha, for fear the convicts should use them to escape with.



CONVICT ON FISHING EXPEDITION.

(From a sketch by Lieutenant H. Swire, R.N.)

The huts of the convicts form a sort of small town round the square. They have most of them a bit of garden enclosed. I saw several women and children. There are plantations of sugar-cane, maize, cassava, sweet potatoes, pumpkins, bananas, and melons. The latter are remarkably fine in size and flavour, both water and marsh melons; we paid about three pence each for them.

We had to wade in up to our middle to reach our boats, on account of the surf. A large shoal of dolphins (*Delphinus*) was feeding in the bay close to the shore.

The governor having first given full permission for exploration subsequently retracted it, and sent off a message to say that he would allow no surveying or collecting. This was most unfortunate, since very little is known of the fauna and flora of Fernando Noronha.

Next morning I landed with Captain Nares on St. Michael's Mount, a conical outlying mass of phonolith, 300 feet