

About two o'clock in the afternoon the lookout reported St. Paul's Rocks visible from the mast-head, and shortly afterward they were seen from the bridge, a delicate serrated outline on the western horizon.

These solitary rocks are nearly under the equator, and midway between the coasts of Africa and of South America. They were visited by Captain Fitzroy, accompanied by Mr. Darwin, in the *Beagle*, in 1832, and a good account of their natural history is given by Mr. Darwin in his "Voyage of a Naturalist." They were again touched at by Sir James Ross in the *Erebus*, in 1839. Merchant vessels usually give them a wide berth; but our party found a bottle with a paper stating that on the 19th of July, 1872, Captain Pack had landed from the ship *Ann Millicent*, of Liverpool, bound from London to Colombo. We were greatly struck with their small size, for although we knew their dimensions perfectly well—rather under a quarter of a mile from end to end of the group—we had scarcely realized so mere a speck out in mid-ocean, so far from all other land. We came in to the west of the rocks under their lee. To our right there were three small detached rocks, dark and low; then a rock about sixty feet high, almost pure white, from being covered with a varnish of a mixture of phosphatic matter produced by the sea-birds and sea-salt; next a bay or cove with a background of lower rock. To the left some peaks fifty to sixty feet high, white and variously mottled, and to the extreme left detached rocks; the whole ridge excessively rugged, with channels and clefts here and there through which the surf dashes from the weather side.

A boat was sent off under the charge of Lieutenant Bethell, with a quantity of whale-line; and a loop of eight or ten ply was passed round one of the rocks. To this a hawser was run from the ship, lying about seventy yards out with her bows in 104 fathoms water. The hawser was made fast to the whale-line, and the ship thus moored to the rock. There was a strong