

Captain now made his appearance and we launched our boat and went off to the ships. In a short time a boat came off bringing Potatoes, onions, squashes, hens and few Portuguese who were shipped for the voyage. They had nothing on but an old shirt and pants which hung about them in rags and hardly covered their nakedness. The first thing they inquired for was "bolash" and when given some bread and meat they devoured it as though they had had nothing to eat for a long time. We were told that the islanders in general hardly could get enough to eat and meat was a great rarity.

Having obtained all that we wanted we were about to stand on our course when "sail O" was shouted and looking to windward a vessel was seen coming rapidly down before the wind and in a short time she was plainly in sight. She proved to be the bark Maria of New Bedford and was just out from home bound on a sperm whale cruise. Her Capt. boarded us and staid about half an hour and then we parted company she standing in towards the land and we standing on our destined course towards the Cape de Verde we having a passenger to land there.

And now we went on smoothly with a moderate breeze for about ten days when one morning at day break the look out again sang out "Land O" and soon after breakfast we were near as we wanted to go. It was the island of St. Antonio and the home of our passenger who seven years before had left it to go to sea to make his fortune and was now returning in about the same situation as when he left it the owners having sent him on board for the Capt. to leave at the island on the passage out. So after breakfast the Capt. ordered him to get his chest on deck and get ready to go ashore but this was unnecessary as he had been ready ever

since the land had been first discovered. In a short time we were "en route" for the shore Valentine, the passenger's name acting as pilot. As we approached the shore it presented the appearance of a long reef with the breakers dashing over it and no break or passage through to be seen but as Valentine said there was a passage we concluded that it was all right and kept pulling towards them and as we began to think that we had got to go through the breakers a little opening showed itself smaller than that at Flores and dashing through we entered a little lagoon not twenty feet wide and as smooth as a millpond the shore of which was lined with blacks of which the population consists with the exception of a few white Portuguese. And now we began to see something in the fruit line Oranges, bananas, coconuts, guavas, mummy apples as sailors call them a fruiting resembling the musk melon but growing on a small tree and with a yellow inside with little round, black seeds and about the consistence of a melon with a spicy delicious taste.

As Valentine had told us that as the islanders could get no tobacco therefore we would find a ready sale for it we had taken the precaution to bring some with us and the first thing inquired for was tobacco but as they wanted at first to drive a pretty hard bargain we were not in much of a hurry to begin. As the Capt. left the boat he told the crew to take a run round the place for an hour leaving me in charge of the boat to be relieved at proper intervals.

As I was left in charge I had leisure to take a glance around. The boat was surrounded by a crowd of natives but few of whom were clothed and the rest were either naked or partly so. But they did not care for that. They crowded around the boat, begging for tobacco.