

and when given a chew they showed great satisfaction. I now made a bargain with one of them giving him a plug of tobacco for a bag of oranges holding about a bushel. He seemed to be satisfied and I certainly was for the tobacco cost me at home five cents a plug. Being now relieved by one of the men I started up the beach and found the rest of them in a little shanty discussing the merits of "aguadiente" a liquor distilled from the sap of the cocoa-nut tree and the merits of which consisted in its being strong and fiery enough to satisfy any dram drinker. The natives all seemed to be anxious that we should go into their houses and taste of their "xente" for which they expected a piece of tobacco. The huts were built of mud baked in the sun and whitewashed outside and at a distance looked very well. The Captain now wanting us to carry some things down to the boat we went out to what I suppose was the market-place by a white Portuguese with whom the skipper had been trading. So one shouldering a pig and one a bunch of fowls and another a bunch of bananas we started for the boat along with one of the natives whom the Capt. had shipped to make out our number. We found in the course of the voyage that nearly every whaler sails from home three or four hands short intending to stop at these islands and make out the number with these natives who are all anxious to get away from these islands where famine is often the reigning monarch. Some years ago if my readers recollect there was a severe famine here and our government sent out provisions to the starving islanders which were taken possession of by the government of these islands and sold to the natives making them pay for what they had or starve. This information we obtained from Antonio our

new recruit's name who said that at the time mentioned he nearly starved and a great many of the natives. After we had reached the ship he came up to me and asked for something to eat in English of which he seemed to have quite a smattering picked up by intercourse with vessels. I gave him some bread, meat and molasses and he sat down and made a hearty meal and one and another giving him some clothes he soon began to look quite respectable.

We laid at this island until sunset when we started on our course again and in about a week found ourselves in the "doldrums" so called by sailors. We would have it calm and still and in an hour perhaps we would be in the midst of a squall of wind and rain blowing hard for an hour followed by a calm again to be succeeded by a squall but with all this we had some rare sport for a fisherman. The ship was followed all the time by albatrosses and shipjacks and when the ship was going through the water with any speed they would tell but the best time to catch them was when she was in the wind and going out in the jib boom and bowsprit we would fling our lines over baited with a white rag and letting the wind carry it to leeward and keeping it on the surface and letting it skip from one sea to another they would think it to be flying fish and seize it instantly and hauling them up and slipping a bowline over their tail we would carry them on our deck where those who were not fishing would be cleaning and salting them in barrels. The small ones are very good eating but the large ones are coarse and dry. They were from two to ten pounds in weight seldom exceeding that although we caught one that weighed over a hundred.

We got clear of the "doldrums" after a while and soon found ourselves advancing into cooler weather until it became necessary to put on