

of Edgerton and while in company with her a large sperm whale. Both vessels boat struck the water at the same moment and the chances for getting him were about equal. They had nearly reached him when he went down and when he appeared the mate of the Vineyard and our mate were the nearest boats but ours being the faster of the two we had every chance of getting him when all at once the mate hove up and the mate of the Vineyard went up and fastened to him and had him turned up very soon. The Capt. who saw the whole of it from the vessel was greatly enraged with the mate who said in estimation that if he had not hove up with the boat would have got him as they would have bothered each other, but this did not go down with the Captain who said "I guess you was afraid of his kick" which was indignantly denied by the mate but in the minds of the crew that was the truest explanation that could be given for the chance was ours and we ought to have fastened to him and should if the boat had been in the hands of a competent man. But there is no use in crying for spilt milk.

Soon after this we made Wellington Island a small island belonging to the Kingsmill Group. It is the station of a missionary but from appearances he had not met with much success as yet for we could see no improvement in their morals. The men had adopted a different headgear from any that we had hitherto seen. This has kept dry and pinned out in such a manner that their heads seemed as large as a half bushel measure and their ambition seemed to consist in who could present the largest. They were eager to trade as usual but the ships trading was all transacted through the missionary who bought from the natives and sold to us making it no doubt advantageous to himself. A few turtle were obtained which is the principal inducement for ships to stop here there being plenty of these to be ob-

tained here.

We now bent our course for Strong's Island which is situated one or two degrees north of the equator but did not stop there and stood on for the island of Ascension a large island about one days sail from Strong's Island. We made it the next day and on getting sufficiently near set a signal for a pilot. This is a beautiful island to look at gently rising to an elevation of some hundred feet and clothed with green tropical verdure down to the water edge and impregnating the air with a fragrant smell and which seemed delightful to us. It had been so long confined on shipboard.

Our pilot now came on board a tall gigantic man of full 7 feet in height and stout built in proportion. He was a Cape Verde Portuguese but had been a long time on the island leaving some vessel in the first place and living with the natives having a native wife besides being so much larger and stronger than ordinary he had gained an ascendancy over them only inferior to the chief himself. He went by the name of Goldish and was the usual pilot for the harbor to which he had attached himself.

There are three harbors in this island which go by the names of Weather harbor, Chiddle harbor and Lee harbor. The Chiddle harbor which we were about to enter was the most frequented of the three on account of the easy ingress and egress to it while in the Weather harbor there was the risk of being wind-bound sometimes for months. A missionary was stationed at Lee harbor and in consequence the natives were a little more decent the women not being allowed to come on board while at the other harbor the natives were unrestrained in the least the living women coming off and staying with the men night and day who on departing would give them a yard or two of calico which would please them extremely they wrapping it around their loins and