

so as to get through the Straits before dark. After passing the Pillars of Hercules, the wind freshened considerably, and the intention of making a short detour from our course so as to visit Tangiers had to be abandoned. Early next morning we passed the most southerly point of Europe, and as we steamed on, we gradually lost sight of the coast, which was beautifully illuminated by the rising sun, affording us the last glimpse of the Old World.

A westerly course was now shaped to continue the line of soundings we had dropped off Lisbon. Deep water, with a soft oozy bottom, was found to exist, favourable for telegraph cables; and day by day, as the weather moderated, so the dredging and trawling became more successful, and a number of strange new forms of animal life were found; some wondrous formation of sea-urchins and lily-stars, some clustered sea-polyp of singular beauty and of great scientific interest. Thus a week passed, and, on the 2nd February, Porto Santo was sighted—a barren, rocky spot, but, as its name (Holy Port) indicates, viewed by its first tempest-tossed discoverers with thankful hearts, when in their attempt to circumnavigate Africa they were driven out to sea and on the point of perishing.

The island, when first discovered (1416), was, according to some accounts, inhabited, according to others, desolate; however, the voyagers were so delighted with the discovery that it was resolved to dis-