

port in Africa. In about ten days more we are standing in towards the coast, and can easily discern the forest of masts far in on the coast, where the ships are lying at the desired island of Ichaboc. As we approach nearer and nearer we can make out the hulls of some three or four hundred ships of all sizes, from the small schooner of 100 tons to the large full rigged ship of 1000 and 1600 tons.

What a desolate, forbidding-looking spot for ships to come to ! rolling and plunging heavily at their anchors as we still came nearer to the island. At length we begin to take in sail and our anchors are both dropped in this somewhat dangerous place, after a very fair passage of six weeks. We next proceed to send down top-gallant yards and masts on deck, and then to double reef and furl our topsails ; our cables being kept so that we can slip from our anchors if it comes to blow heavy, and proceed to sea from the coast, under snug sail, as there is no shelter here for ships in a gale of wind.

The Island itself is about a mile and a half in circumference, being nothing but a rock covered with the guano to the height of from ninety to a hundred feet, in some parts, and sloping down towards the sea and adjacent rocks. On the surrounding rocks, at a short distance off, there are myriads of sea-birds to be seen,