

tolled, and all the ship's company assembled to pay their last tribute to their late shipmate. The captain read the beautiful and appropriate service for a burial at sea, and on reaching that portion, "We commit his body to the deep," it was slid out of the port, wrapped in a hammock weighted with shot, into the bright blue tide, to be seen no more until that day when the sea shall give up its dead.

On the 3rd April land was in sight; and as we approached the Bermudas, which are mere specks on the chart of the wide Atlantic, the land nowhere rising to a greater height than 260 feet (where the lighthouse is situated), by far the greater part not being more than from 25 to 50 feet above the sea-level, we hove-to for the night, and for a portion of the next day were engaged sounding and dredging round the reefs in a depth of 400 fathoms on a coral clay bottom.

As we stopped off St. George's for the pilot to navigate the vessel through the intricate and dangerous narrows between the reefs, it was indeed a pretty sight. Seemingly nothing could have been more romantic than the little harbour stretched out before us: the variety and beauty of the islets scattered about; the clearness of the water; the number of boats and small vessels cruising between the islands, sailing from one cedar-grove to another, made up as charming a picture as could well be imagined.

Proceeding on, as we near the shore, the white houses of Hamilton are seen peeping out from amongst the dark-green foliage; then Clarence Hill, the official residence of the naval Commander-in-Chief, is in sight, overlooking a pretty little bay and landing-place, with the dark cedars and other trees coming close down to the water's edge. Nature is looking beautiful, and the temperature is genial and pleasant.

From the anchorage the view in either direction was very beautiful. The land broken up into little knolls, and the sparkling sea running here and there into creeks, bays, and inlets, together with the ever-green foliage of the cedar and oleander, made up a very attractive landscape. Directly in front of us is the Naval Yard, with its jetties and cambers. Close at hand is the great iron floating dock; and stretching away in either direction are extensive stores, factories, and the residences of the officials connected with the establishment.

These islands are said to have been visited nearly 400 years ago