

gave us to understand that they would bring us a large animal from the land, and immediately disappeared between the three islands. These islanders were thin and of a dark colour, and their teeth dyed black; their heads were covered with large straw hats, of the Chinese shape, and their dress consisted of old nankeen shirts. Their boat was made of the whole stem of a tree, with a balancier. The islanders soon returned with a turtle, of an immense size, which was tied across the boat; two monkeys and some parrots were sitting on its stomach. The islanders called the turtle *curpot*; it was as much as two men could lift, and its flesh afterwards supplied the whole crew for two days. When the turtle was on-board, the donor came on deck himself, and put on a pair of very old embroidered silk breeches; he assumed a consequential air, and told me that he made me a present of the turtle, frequently repeating the word "present." Perceiving that he also expected presents, I gave him beads, knives, scissars, and other trifles; but his principal wish seemed to be to have a pistol, and powder, in his language *belbedil*. In the mean time, a second canoe, with five people in it, one of whom spoke a little Spanish and English, arrived with a cargo of monkeys and turtles, but which they would only sell for piasters, pistols and powder. We bought some monkeys, one of which our scientific gentlemen declared to be of a species unknown in natural history. They also sold us fowls, and we might have obtained an abundant supply of provisions, had we stayed here a few days.

On the 14th, at seven o'clock A.M., we passed through the channel between Zupften Island and the current rock; but, on the other side of it, the wind was weak, and the current was carrying us rapidly towards the rocks, when suddenly a fresh breeze, springing up, brought us out of our dangerous situation. The number of the Zupften Islands given in the charts is five, but we counted eight of them. I reached the strait in the afternoon; the Eglantine, which sailed very slow, being now without danger, I left her behind, and continued my course: on the 15th, in the evening, we passed through the strait.

On the 2d of March, at six o'clock P.M. in lat. $22^{\circ} 2'$, long. $289^{\circ} 40'$, the ship was illuminated by a large fire-ball, to such a degree, that we could distinguish the objects as clearly as in the day-time; it rose east of the Pleiades, taking a perpendicular course towards the horizon; the whole duration of the phenomenon was three seconds.

On the 12th of March, being near the southern point of Madagascar, the wind suddenly shifted to the north, and the atmosphere became very chilly. At midnight we were sud-