

extending a hundred yards on either side or on both sides of the ship, and that these mount to such a height as to form an angle of two or three degrees when the crest of the wave is fully one hundred yards off. This distance adds about thirteen feet to the level of the eye. Such an immense elevation occurs only, however, in about every sixth wave.

Now and then, when the course of a mighty billow, as it thunders from afar, is intercepted by another liquid giant, and they clash together, like Achilles and Hector, their shivering crests shoot upwards fully ten or fifteen feet higher—the height, let us say, of about half that of the London Monument—and then come down in a tremendous deluge on the labouring vessel. The professor is literally inundated, but he bravely keeps his post, until he has satisfactorily proved, by accurate observation, that the average wave which passes the vessel is fully equal to the height of his eye, or thirty feet three inches; and that the mean highest waves, not including the Hectors and Achilleses, rise about forty-three feet above the level of the hollow occupied at the moment by the ship.

Having collected all the data he requires, our observer, half pickled by the salt water, and