

belt, submerged beneath the waters, which is especially formidable to navigation. Add to this that the serenity of the atmosphere so much boasted of by the Bermudans is often disturbed by tempests. Their islands receives the fag-end of the tempests which lay waste the Antilles, and this fag-end, like the end of a whalebone, is the part to be the most feared. I therefore advise ocean travellers to mistrust the descriptions of Walter and Thomas Moore."

"Mr. Curtis," resumed Andre Letourneur, smiling, "you are, no doubt, right, but the poets are like proverbs; you may always contradict one by another. If Tom Moore and Walter have celebrated this archipelago as a charming retreat, the greatest of your poets, on the other hand,—Shakespeare,—who knew it better, perhaps, has chosen the Bermudas for one of the most terrible scenes of his 'Tempest.'"

The neighborhood of the Bermudas is, indeed, a dangerous one. The English, to whom this group has belonged ever since its discovery, use it only as a military station between the Antilles and Nova Scotia. With time—that great agent in Nature's work—the archipelago, which already comprises one hundred and fifty islands and islets, is destined to include yet more; for the madrepores are ever toiling to construct new Bermudas, which will gradually unite and form, little by little, a new continent.

Neither of the three other passengers, nor