

[Page 20]

drawing the almost purely straight lines cutting the parallels at even angles. But how they enjoyed their occasional northern albatross, the not infrequent whales, the almost steady companionship of quite a large variety of sharks and even rays!

Of ____ [Jack]'s twins began to grow rather offensively knowledgeable about sea-going affairs but Padeen (tho[ugh] his English remained strange, incorrect and largely incomprehensible for the finer forms) managed to keep them within bounds, and what he could not do, Brigid did. It did not make them very pleasant companions but it rendered them tolerable; and the southern coast of Africa and the Portuguese possessions came daily nearer.

Miller, who called on the ladies almost every day to suggest piquet or backgammon (with little success on the whole) was much excited by the prospect of Loando, and he climbed as far as [he] dared to catch a first glimpse of the shore -- conceivably a symbol of power, status and indeed perhaps marriage.

A dimness on the western horizon, soundings, very exact observation of sun, moon, planets, and a wonderfully timely eclipse of one of Jupiter's satellites give them their time to the minute or even less.

'Now it can come hell or high water,' said Harding, the *Suffolk's* first lieutenant and a [[prime]] astronomer. 'Now you know exactly where we are.'

He said this in the presence of Admiral Aubrey (no mean astronomer himself) who shook his head at the words; so did everyone else in the chartroom, sometimes imperceptibly. But imperceptibly or not, within seconds the sky split with a most enormous roar -- so prodigious that the twins, well accustomed to gentler weather rushed shrieking back [to] their mother's bed.

All night it bellowed and thundered. St Elmo's Fire appeared on three separate masts and the bowsprit. Three staysails were blown out of their bolt-ropes in the first shock, and the foretopgallant. With infinite pains on a deck that never for a moment stopped throwing