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Chapter 41 From Cape Horn To The Amazon

How I got on to the platform, I have no idea; perhaps the Canadian had carried me there. But I breathed, I inhaled the vivifying sea-air. My two companions were getting drunk with the fresh particles. The other unhappy men had been so long without food, that they could not with impunity indulge in the simplest aliments that were given them. We, on the contrary, had no end to restrain ourselves; we could draw this air freely into our lungs, and it was the breeze, the breeze alone, that filled us with this keen enjoyment.

"Ah!" said Conseil, "how delightful this oxygen is! Master need not fear to breathe it. There is enough for everybody."

Ned Land did not speak, but he opened his jaws wide enough to frighten a shark.

Our strength soon returned, and, when I looked round me, I saw we were alone on the platform. The foreign seamen in the Nautilus were contented with the air that circulated in the interior; none of them had come to drink in the open air.

The first words I spoke were words of gratitude and thankfulness to my two companions. Ned and Conseil had prolonged my life during the last hours of this long agony. All my gratitude could not repay such devotion.

"My friends," said I, "we are bound one to the other for ever, and I am under infinite obligations to you."

"Which I shall take advantage of, "exclaimed the Canadian.

第四十一章 从合恩角到 亚马逊河口

我不知道我是如何到了平台。可能是加拿大人背我上来的。我呼吸着,我吸着海上的清新空气。在我身边的两个同伴,他们也陶醉在这新鲜的空气中。那些长时间没有食物的不幸的人们,别人第一次提供给他们食物时,他们不会无节制地吃。而我们却相反,我们无须节制,我们可以大口大口地呼吸大气中的氧气。是微风,正是微风给我们送来了如此的沉醉!

"啊!"康塞尔说,"好极了,氧气!先生不用担心呼吸了!人人都可以呼吸了!"

尼德·兰呢,他一言未发。但他的嘴张得那么大,鲨鱼看了也会害怕。

很快我们就恢复了元气,我看了看四周,发现只有我们 3个人在平台上。那些奇怪的"鹦鹉螺号"水手,他们只须船 内流通着空气,就心满意足了。

此时第一句话便向我的两个同伴表达我的谢意和感激。尼德和康塞尔曾在我弥留之际的最后一段时间里延长了我的生命,现在即使我说出所有感激的话言,也报答不了如此的一种情谊。

"我的朋友们,"我极其激动地说,"我们的心永远相连, 我欠你们真是太多了。"

"我会讨回来的。"加拿大人马上说。

"What do you mean?" said Conseil.

"I mean that I shall take you with me when I leave this infernal Nautilus."

"Well, "said Conseil, "after all this, are we going right?"

"Yes, "I replied, "for we are going the way of the sun, and here the sun is in the north."

"No doubt," said Ned Land; "but it remains to be seen whether he will bring the ship into the Pacific or the Atlantic Ocean, that is, into frequented or deserted seas."

I could not answer that question, and I feared that Captain Nemo would rather take us to the vast ocean that touches the coasts of Asia and America at the same time. He would thus complete the tour round the submarine world, and return to those waters in which the Nautilus could sail freely.

We ought, before long, to settle this important point. The Nautilus went at a rapid pace. The polar circle was soon passed, and the course shaped for Cape Horn. We were off the American point, March 31st, at seven o'clock in the evening. Then all our past sufferings were forgotten.

The remembrance of that imprisonment in the ice was effaced from our minds. We only thought of the future. Captain Nemo did not appear again either in the drawing-room or on the platform. The point shown each day on the planisphere, and, marked by the lieutenant, showed me the exact direction of the Nautilus. Now, on that evening, it was evident, to, my great satisfaction, that we were going back to the North by the Atlantic.

The next day, April 1st, when the Nautilus ascended to the surface some minutes before noon, we sighted land to the west. It was Terra del Fuego, which the first navigators named thus from seeing the quantity of smoke that rose from the na"什么?"康塞尔说。

"当我要离开这牢狱般的'鹦鹉螺号'时,我有权拉着您跟我一起走。"

"好了,"康塞尔说,"可我们走的方向对吗?"

"是对的,"我回答说,"我们正朝着太阳的方向行驶,我说的太阳,就是北边。"

"可能吧,"尼德·兰回答说,"不过还须弄明白我们是返回太平洋还是大西洋,也就是说是有人烟的海域还是没有人烟的海域。"

我无法回答这问题,我猜想尼摩船长更愿意把我们带 到濒临亚洲和美洲海岸的那片辽阔海域中。这样他就可以 完成他的海底旅行,然后回到一处"鹦鹉螺号"觉得最自在 的海域中。

不过不久,我们就会明确这重要的一点。"鹦鹉螺号"正迅速前行。一会儿,它就穿过了南极圈,船头朝着合恩角方向驶去。3月31日晚上7点,我们到了这个美洲的岬角。

到了这个夜晚,我们忘记了过去所有的痛苦,被困在冰 层里的记忆已经从我们心里被抹掉了,我们现在关心的只 有未来。尼摩船长不再出现在客厅里,也不再出现在平台 上。每天都由大副出来测定船的方位并把它记录在平面地 图上,由此我知道了"鹦鹉螺号"的准确位置。而且那天晚 上,我们又沿着大西洋的原路往回走,这使我非常高兴。

第二天,4月1日,"鹦鹉螺号"在正午前几分钟浮出了水面。我们从西面看到了海岸。那是火地岛,早期的航海家看到岛上土著的茅屋上飘起无数的浓烟,便给它取了这个

tives' huts.

The coast seemed low to me, but in the distance rose high mountains. I even thought I had a glimpse of Mount Sarmiento, that rises 2, 070 yards above the level of the sea, with a very pointed summit, which, according as it is misty or clear, is a sign of fine or of wet weather.

At this moment the peak was clearly defined against the sky.

The Nautilus, diving again under the water, approached the coast, which was only some few miles off. From the glass windows in the drawing-room, I saw long seaweeds and gigantic fuci and varech, of which the open polar sea contains so many specimens, with their sharp polished filaments; they measured about 300 yards in length- real cables, thicker than one's thumb; and, having great tenacity, they are often used as ropes for vessels. Another weed known as velp, with leaves four feet long, buried in the coral concretions, hung at the bottom. It served as nest and food for myriads of crustacea and molluscs, crabs, and cuttlefish. There seals and otters had splendid repasts, eating the flesh of fish with sea-vegetables, according to the English fashion.

Over this fertile and luxuriant ground the Nautilus passed with great rapidity. Towards evening it approached the Falkland group, the rough summits of which I recognized the following day. The depth of the sea was moderate.

On the shores our nets brought in beautiful specimens of sea weed, and particularly a certain fucus, the roots of which were filled with the best mussels in the world. Geese and ducks fell by dozens on the platform, and soon took their places in the pantry on board.

When the last heights of the Falklands had disappeared from the horizon, the Nautilus sank to between twenty and twen名字。

我感觉这个岛的海岸很低,但在远处矗立着几座高山。我甚至以为我看到了海拔高度为 2,070 米的萨尔眠图山,如同是一个片岩金字塔,有很尖的峰顶。尼德·兰告诉我,人们根据山上是云雾密布还是没有云雾,就能算出是坏天气还是好天气。

这时,这座尖峰似乎清晰地从天底上显露出来。

不久,"鹦鹉螺号"重新回到了水中。它靠近海岸,但仅仅沿着海岸走了几海里。这时,透过客厅的玻璃,我看到了一些长的海藤和一些巨大的墨角葉——梨形藻的一种,南极的自由海中就有好几种梨形藻种类,它们加上粘性光滑的根须,长度竟然可达到 300 米,它们可以说是一种真正的铁缆,粗过拇指,非常坚韧,经常被用来做船缆;另外还有一种名叫维尔普的海草,它的叶子长达 4 英尺,和珊瑚的分泌物粘在一起,铺在海底上。这种草是成千上万种甲壳动物、软体动物、螃蟹和乌贼的窝巢和食物。在那边,海豹们和水獭们正依照英国人的饮食方式,把鱼肉夹上海草,美美地大嚼特嚼呢。

在这片动植物繁多的海底,"鹦鹉螺号"以相当快的速度前进着。傍晚,它就靠近了马鲁因群岛。第二天,我便可以观察到岛上的险峰。

在海岸边上一些美丽的海藻种类,被我们船上的鱼网拖上来了,尤其是那种根部拖着世界上最美味的贻贝的墨角藻。同时,我们打了十几只海鹨和海鸭,它们在平台上挣扎着,一会儿就被送进了船上的厨房。

当马鲁因群岛的最后几座高峰消失于海平面,"鹦鹉螺

ty-five yards, and followed the American coast. Captain Nemo did not show himself.

Until the 3rd of April we did not quit the shores of Patagonia, sometimes under the ocean, sometimes at the surface. The Nautilus passed beyond the large estuary formed by the Uraguay. Its direction was northwards, and followed the long windings of the coast of South America. We had then made 1, 600 miles since our embarkation in the seas of Japan.

About eleven o'clock in the morning the Tropic of Capricorn was crossed on the thirty-seventh meridian, and we passed Cape Frio standing out to sea. Captain Nemo, to Ned Land's great displeasure, did not like the neighbourhood of the inhabited coasts of Brazil, for we went at a giddy speed. Not a fish, not a bird of the swiftest kind could follow us, and the natural curiosities of these seas escaped all observation.

This speed was kept up for several days, and in the evening of the 9th of April we sighted the most westerly point of South America that forms Cape San Roque. But then the Nautilus swerved again, and sought the lowest depth of a submarine valley which is between this Cape and Sierra Leone on the African coast. This valley bifurcates to the parallel of the Antilles, and terminates at the mouth by the enormous depression of 9, 000 yards. In this place, the geological basin of the ocean forms, as far as the Lesser Antilles, a cliff to three and a half miles perpendicular in height, and, at the parallel of the Cape Verde Islands, an other wall not less considerable, that encloses thus all the sunk continent of the Atlantic. The bottom of this immense valley is dotted with some mountains, that give to these submarine places a picturesque aspect. I speak, moreover, from the manuscript charts that were in the library of the Nautilus-charts evidently due to Captain Nemo's hand, and 号"又潜入了20至25米深的海水中,沿着美洲海岸航行。此时尼摩船长还是没出现。

4月3日之前,我们的船一直都待在巴塔哥尼海域,它一会儿潜在海中,一会儿浮出水面。不久,"鹦鹉螺号"就穿过了普拉塔河河口的大喇叭形海口。它沿着南美洲曲折漫长的海岸线一直向北行驶。如此,我们从日本海出发到现在,已经走了1,600里路了。

早上 11 点左右,我们沿西经 37 度穿过了南回归线,经过了佛里奥岬的海面。令尼德·兰最为不满的是,尼摩船长不愿意让船靠近住人的巴西海岸,他让船速度惊人地向前开去。这样,不论是鱼、小鸟,甚至速度最快的别的动物,都跟不上我们的船,这一片海里的自然奇观我们全未看过。

这么快的速度一直保持了好几天。4月9日晚上,我们已经看到了南美洲最东点的圣罗克角海岬。但这时"鹦鹉螺号"又重新躲起来,它潜入了更深的海底,目的是寻找位于圣罗克角和非洲海岸边塞拉利昂之间的某座海底山谷。这座山谷在安第列斯群岛的同一纬度上叉开,一直延伸到北面一片9,000米长的大洼地。在这里,海底的地质断层形成了一处长6公里、一直延伸到小安第列斯群岛的非常险峻的断崖;而且,在青角岛的同一水平线上,还有另一座不可小看的断壁,正是这两个断崖把沉没的大西洋城围了起来。这片海底大山谷里点缀着几座风景秀丽的海底山峰。至于这些情况,我主要是根据"鹦鹉螺号"船上图书室收藏的一张手绘地图才知道的,这张地图显然是来自尼摩船长个

made after his personal observations.

For two days the desert and deep waters were visited by means of the inclined planes. The Nautilus was furnished with long diagonal broadsides which carried it to all elevations. But on the 11th of April it rose suddenly, and land appeared at the mouth of the Amazon River, a vast estuary, the embouchure of which is so considerable that it freshens the sea-water for the distance of several leagues. {8 paragraphs are deleted from this edition}

人的观察,出自于他的手。

这两天内,我们将纵斜机板潜入这片荒芜、深邃的海区里参观。借助这一工具"鹦鹉螺号"能沿着它的对角线做曲线形运动潜到海底的任何深度。但4月11日,它突然浮出水面,我们发觉陆地在亚马逊河口——河水输出量非常大、冲淡了海洋好几里内的咸水的大河口——重新出现了。