

Charybdis is situated outside the harbour of Messina, about two miles from the Rock of Scylla; it is now known as the *Galofaro*. It has long ceased to be formidable; and we must either conclude that its dangers were greatly over-coloured by the ancients, or that the navigation has been rendered safer by some change in the set of the currents; a change not improbable or impossible in a region so subject to the action of earthquakes. According to ancient geographers, it lay immediately opposite the Rock of Scylla; whence the old adage—

“ Incidit in Scyllam, cupiens vitare Charybdim.”

Seeking to avoid Charybdis, he falls upon Scylla.



FIG. 222.—TIDE-RACE OFF BOURBON ISLAND IN 1846.

Numerous eddies and whirlpools, though none of a dangerous character, exist in the Straits of Messina.]

Another celebrated European whirlpool is situated near the island of Eubœa. The *tornadoes* which occur in the seas of China and Japan, and which are frequently of such violence as to engulf the largest ships, belong to the same category. They have also been observed in the Gulf of Bothnia.

The Norwegian coast is indented by numerous salt-water creeks, or little gulfs, called *fjords*, and it also bristles with rocks, against which the northern billows dash with a constant swirl and fury. Here is the celebrated whirlpool of the Malström; its waters have a gyratory movement, which changes its direction every six hours. [At one time this whirlpool was described as swallowing in its vortex the