

largest ships and whales ; the truth seems to be, that in ordinary weather it may be traversed without danger. When a violent wind is blowing, however, a vessel swept into the current would undoubtedly founder, or be dashed against the rocks.

The depth of the Malström, or Mosköestrom, is about twenty fathoms. It is situated between Mosköe and Moskenöes, two of the Loffoden islands ; is greatest at high or low water ; and when the wind blows *against* its current, agitates the sea for miles around. In the neighbourhood are some less considerable vortices, as the Napström and Galström.]

The terrible phenomenon of the *Tide-Race*, so much and so justly dreaded by navigators, originates in the combined effect of the tides and the whirlpools. In the calmest weather, and without a breath of air, you will sometimes see propagated upon the coast a series of deep and whirling waves, which seem, as it were, to *up-root* the ships, for they seize them by the keel, wheel them round upon their axis, and completely capsize them. We give a representation, in the accompanying cut, of a tide-race which wrecked, in 1846, the ships lying at anchor off the island of Bourbon.

[During heavy gales on the coast of Madras, the surf breaks in nine fathoms water at the distance of four, and even four and a half miles from the shore. At such times it is impossible for the stoutest boat to live in it, and the largest vessels are compelled to cut their cables and run out to sea. So awful is, at times, the violence of the gale, as actually to dominate over the upheaval of the billows, and scatter the levelled surface in a heavy shower of spray, called by sailors "spoon-drift." Its saline particles frequently impregnate the air to the distance of 50 miles inland. Even in fair weather the surf rises to a height of three feet at a distance of one hundred yards from the shore, and the natives pilot the voyager through it in boats called *catamarans*, which are specially constructed for the purpose.]