

“ carry herrings and other fish to Leith, Edin-
 “ burgh, or Glasgow, worked by three or four
 “ hardy sailors, and generally commanded by
 “ an individual having no other knowledge of
 “ navigation than that which enables him to
 “ keep his dead reckoning, and to take the sun
 “ with his quadrant at noonday.

“ It appears that a man who owned and com-
 “ manded one of these coasting vessels had been
 “ in the habit of seeing the West India ships
 “ load and unload in the several ports of Scot-
 “ land; and, having learned that sugar was a
 “ very profitable cargo, he determined, by way
 “ of speculation, on making a trip to St. Vincent,
 “ and returning to the Scottish market with a
 “ few hogsheads of that commodity. The na-
 “ tives were perfectly astonished—they had never
 “ heard of such a feat before; and they deemed
 “ it quite impossible that a mere fishing smack,
 “ worked by only four men, and commanded by
 “ an ignorant master, should plough the boister-
 “ ous billows of the Atlantic, and reach the West
 “ Indies in safety; yet so it was. The hardy
 “ Scotchman freighted his vessel; made sail;
 “ crossed the bay of Biscay in a gale; got into
 “ the *trades*; and scudded along before the
 “ wind, at the rate of seven knots an hour, trust-
 “ ing to his dead reckoning all the way. He
 “ spoke no vessel during the whole voyage, and
 “ never once saw land until the morning of the