sight. In our accompanying illustration we represent the effect of the raging billows off the Cape, discovered by Bartolomeo Diaz.

Off Cape Horn, in South America, the waves are 32 feet high; in our European seas they rarely exceed 10, or, on extraordinary occasions, 18 feet.

A wave created by the influence of a violent wind exercises a pressure of 3,000,000 yards on the square yard. When the British Channel is vexed by a storm, the waves frequently tower above the very lantern of the Eddystone Lighthouse, which is 85 feet in

Fig. 223.—Height of a Wave at the Cape of Good Hope.

height, and fall upon its roof in a cataract of foam and spray. After the hurricane which desolated Barbadoes in 1780, a couple of ancient guns were found upon the beach, having been transported thither from the ocean-bed by the rolling and surging waters.

If the ebbing waves encounter any obstacle in their receding movement, they form into eddies and whirlpools—the terror of the seaman. As an example we may name the whirlpool in the Strait of Messina, which rages over the rocks of Charybdis and Scylla; those rocks so celebrated in the traditions of antiquity, and rendered famous by the poetical exaggerations of Homer, Ovid, and Virgil. [The latter poet thus describes the scene :—*

* [Virgil, Æneid, bk. 3, transl. by Professor Conington, p. 95.]