

The weather was very settled. On the Sunday, as we steamed down the Irish Channel there was nearly a dead calm, a slight mist hanging over the water and giving some very beautiful effects of coast scenery. On the evening of Sunday the 18th we anchored for the night off Ballycottin, a pretty little port about fifteen miles from Queenstown, and dropped round to Queenstown on Monday morning, where we anchored off Haulbowline Island at 7 A.M. At Queenstown Mr. P. Herbert Carpenter joined Mr. Hunter in the laboratory, to practise under his direction the gas-analysis, which it had been arranged that he should undertake during the third cruise. Monday the 18th was employed in coaling and procuring in Cork some things which were required for the chemical department; and at 7 P.M. we cast off from the wharf at Haulbowline and proceeded on our voyage.

During Monday night we steamed in a south-westerly direction across the mouth of the Channel. On Tuesday we dredged in 74 and 75 fathoms on the plateau which extends between Cape Clear and Ushant, on a bottom of mud and gravel with dead shells and a few living examples of the generally diffused species of moderate depths. The weather was remarkably fine, the barometer 30.25 in., and the temperature of the air 22°·5 C.

On Wednesday, July 21, we continued our south-westerly course, the chart indicating during the earlier part of the day that we were still in the shallow water of the plateau of the Channel. At 4.30 A.M. we dredged gravel and dead shells in 95 fathoms, but towards mid-day the lead gave a much greater depth;