

CHAPTER III.

TENERIFFE (CANARY ISLANDS) TO ST. THOMAS (WEST INDIES).

Leaving Teneriffe—Sight of the Peak—Commence section across the Atlantic—Daily soundings and trawlings—The results—Configuration of the bottom—In the Tropics—The officers of the ship—Life on board—Our daily doings—Description of the mode of sounding—The apparatus and appliances used—Taking serial temperatures—Dredging and trawling—Island of Sombrero in sight—Arrive and anchor at St. Thomas.

As the evening of the 14th of February dawned, we left the bay of Santa Cruz, dispensing with steam when well clear of the land. The bright moonlight afforded us a capital view of the Peak, which frowned down in all its grandeur, clearly and sharply defined, and its head hoary with many a winter's snow. A fine favouring breeze was with us all night: at dawn of the following morning the island of Teneriffe was looming far on the distant horizon.

From the present may be said to commence the regular work of the Expedition. A section was now to be carried right across the Atlantic from Teneriffe to Sombrero (a small island forming one of a group of the Virgin Islands), a distance of about 2700 miles; and along this line over twenty stations were fixed on at which it was decided to make careful