

When about two-thirds of the distance between the Canary Islands and the West Indies, we had reached the Tropics, and were fairly in the region of the trade winds, of which we took advantage; still we occasionally "hove-to," for the purpose of sounding and dredging; on its conclusion again standing on our course, with a steady breeze.

And now, while enjoying such pleasant weather, I take the opportunity of introducing my reader to the officers who had been appointed, and who were for the most part our companions through the various incidents of the cruise.

The naval officers had been selected by the Admiralty, in most cases, for some special acquirement; and the staff of civilian naturalists and physicists had been nominated by a specially appointed committee of the Royal Society.

Captain George S. Nares, F.R.S. &c., was appointed in command of the Expedition. His name is familiar to the public from his surveying services, his standard works on seamanship, and, recently, from his having been in command of the late Arctic Expedition. From his previous scientific training, he was eminently fitted for the responsibilities imposed upon him. His second was Commander J. F. L. P. Maclear, also well known in the scientific world, and who has seen much service in various parts of the world; on him devolved the entire charge of the magnetic department. Lieutenants Pelham Aldrich,