

after we were steaming out from the anchorage, the weather bright and clear, and everything promising a pleasant and speedy run to the Sandwich Islands.

Last year (1874) the United States Government despatched the steam-vessel *Tuscarora* on a deep-sea sounding cruise between San Francisco, the Sandwich Islands, and the coast of Japan, with instructions on their return route to complete a line of soundings from Yokohama, extending in a great circle to the north, passing along the islands of the Aleutian group, and so towards Puget Sound, with a view of finding a practicable cable route across.

The course therefore selected by us was one intermediate between these two (through the parallel of 35° north latitude) until reaching 155° west longitude.

The voyage at first promised to be pleasant and speedy, but ere many days had passed, we found that we were to be delayed (except in one or two cases) by light and contrary winds; still, the fine weather was eminently favourable for sounding and trawling; while, on the other hand, the want of a breeze made the voyage long and monotonous. No such extraordinary depths were found on the course selected by us as those reported by the American expedition, their deepest being 4655 fathoms, while ours was 3900 fathoms; the average being under 3000, with a bottom of red clay and brown