

mud. Very little of interest occurred from day to day, and the results of the trawling and additions to the natural history collection were very scanty.

The principal occurrence of the voyage that made an impression was the passage of the meridian of  $180^{\circ}$ , which took place at noon on the 3rd July; and we now entered on west longitude. Accordingly, a day had to be "dropped" out of our reckoning, and Sunday, 4th July, was continued for two days, so as to prevent our returning to England with our log and journal one day ahead of the calendar. It requires but little explanation as to the necessity of this alteration. However, while on this topic, I may refer to the dismay of the early Catholic navigators when they found that they had been keeping irregular fast-days. Thus, when Magalhaens made his first voyage round the world (September 1519 to July 1522), he found, on his return, that he was a day behind his countrymen, having sailed from east to west round Cape Horn. The idea of having lost a day of their lives puzzled them very much, but what disquieted the minds of these pious navigators still more was the fact that they had been observing their saints' days erroneously, and had actually eaten meat when they ought to have fasted.

The proof of the sphericity of the earth is thus clearly shown, and the improvements in navigation have pointed out that a day must necessarily be lost in a course steered from east to west; while, on