

rich vegetation, was soon left behind us like a shadowy vision of dream-land.

We had a capital breeze, and all seemed to promise a speedy run over the solitary waste of waters intervening in the 5000 miles between Tahiti and Valparaiso.

On October 17th, however, the wind headed us; and until the 21st we were running on a southerly course. When reaching latitude  $40^{\circ} 8'$  south, longitude  $132^{\circ} 52'$  west, we picked up the commencement of the westerlies, which carried us on until the 3rd November, in latitude  $39^{\circ} 22'$ , longitude  $98^{\circ} 46'$ , and 1368 miles from our destination. For a week now we had calms, during which steam was used for about 300 miles. On the 8th a breeze sprang up, but it was of short duration, and the remainder of the distance, until sighting the island of Juan Fernandez, was performed under steam.

Thus nearly six weeks passed, during which soundings were obtained on twenty different occasions, showing an average of 2160 fathoms (the least being 1500, and greatest depth 2600 fathoms). Dredging was successfully carried out at intervals; the bottom was found to consist for the most part of a chocolate-coloured mud. Large quantities of manganese nodules, and on two or three occasions several sharks' teeth, were brought up in the trawl.

Through a succession of unfavourable winds,