

rock, and, although the water gained rapidly, they were enabled to reach this harbour, and get her into shallow water: they then cleared out all they could from her (for high-water came up to the main-deck), and encamped on the Middle Island. After a short time they were rescued by the French war-steamer *La Cher*, and taken to Sandy Point. On their way they fell in with a steam-vessel bound to Valparaiso, to which they gave information of the wreck. This caused the ship to call here; and finding matters not so bad as represented, they took possession of the derelict, leaving four men behind them in charge, intending, on their reaching Loto or Valparaiso, to send assistance to save the cargo (which consisted of silver ore, hides, sugar, saltpetre, and nuts), and to get her afloat again—to do which there appeared to be but little difficulty. Those in possession would accept no assistance from us.

Although it rained continuously during our stay, it did not deter our sportsmen landing to explore the surrounding land. After scrambling through thick shrubbery, a flat space of tolerably open ground was reached. Here a few ducks and geese were bagged. The whole country seemed drenched with moisture, which we afterwards found, on proceeding farther south, was the normal condition of all the land bordering this part of the straits and channel.