

## PORT GRAPPLER TO TOM BAY.

*Jan. 5th.*—There being nothing further to detain us, it was decided to proceed on our way southwards through Wide Channel.

The day at first gave promise of being very fair, and the view of the great masses of rock on either side, the dark frowning headlands, and snowy peaks beyond, was remarkably fine. We stopped for a short time in the channel and dredged, getting a collection of starfish, echini, corals, and sponges; then proceeded on, and anchored in Tom Bay, quite near the entrance to Conception Channel, on the east coast of Madre Channel.

A few geese and other birds were observed, and it was decided to remain the next day for exploration, and to survey the anchorage. Many parties landed, but, after a fatiguing scramble through bushes and over the boggy ground, very little was obtained. However, sufficient of the vegetation was seen to show that it was very similar to that met with at the other anchorages. Continued and heavy rain fell, and during the early hours of the morning violent gales of wind, in squalls, swept down the gorges on us, causing the anchor to drag. Steam was, however, at command, and no danger resulted. Still, all day the furious squalls blew through the ravines from the mountains at short intervals until evening, when the wind moderated.