

We had now been here some fourteen days, and during that time had imparted a little gaiety to the colonists, with dances and dinner parties.

FALKLAND ISLANDS TO MONTE VIDEO.

Feb. 6th.—Rain, or wind, or both combined, seem to constitute the normal state of things in these bleak and desolate islands; although during our stay we had two or three fine days, yet all were glad when it was decided to proceed on our way north, the weather promising to be very squally, and soon after clearing Cape Pembroke there was every indication of a rough passage before us. Three reefs were taken in top-sails, and all made snug for the night, during which but little progress was made. The next day for a time we had clear blue sky; still there was a rough and heavy sea. Pictures from a sailor's note-book in these wild and stormy latitudes rarely contain any sketches of blue sky or smooth water, but are more frequently descriptive (as we now found it) of fierce and stormy waves and howling winds; however, the wind being from the south-west, it was in our favour, and each day brought us nearer our destination. On four occasions we stopped for soundings and trawlings, getting depths of from 1035 to 2425 fathoms. On the 11th, quite unexpectedly, at a depth of 2040 fathoms, we came across a cold current, temperature $33\cdot8^{\circ}$ Fahr., and the next day the