

temperature was  $32\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ , surface being  $76^{\circ}$ . The results from our dredgings to the natural history collection, however, were but scanty.

As we neared the coast of South America, the weather was much finer, and on the 14th we dredged in 600 fathoms, from a rock bottom, and got numerous specimens, but nothing new.

*Feb. 15th.*—This morning, in the haze, we had a glimpse of the low land lying to the south of Maldonado Point. We now entered the River La Plata, or Plate, as it is commonly termed by sailors. Steaming on over a calm sea for some eighty miles, at 4.30 P.M. the fine panorama of Monte Video and its suburbs, with the harbour full of shipping, was in view, and here we anchored, some two miles off the shore. From what could be seen of the city, it seems a charming place, full of bright-looking, handsome edifices, built on the side of a hill. Here were H.M. gun-vessels *Cracker* and *Ready*, and representative men-of-war steam-vessels, flying the national colours of France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Brazil, and Uruguay, with great numbers of merchant-vessels of different nations.

The River La Plata owes its name to the Spaniards, who transferred the produce of the silver mines of Chili and Peru, on its waters, to the ocean, and thence to Europe. The gold and silver was brought from those provinces across the Andes, to Buenos Ayres, from whence it was shipped; but the extension of