

discovery no sooner opened the passage round Cape Horn than this river lost its original importance. In point of magnitude it is the third river of the New World. At its mouth it is 100 miles wide, and off Monte Video it is 50. The banks for some hundreds of miles are the terminations of vast plains, on which there is little visible to cheer or enliven the scene, and nothing to break the solitude, save extensive and numerous herds of cattle.

Twelve hours' run up by steamer and Buenos Ayres is reached, a fine large city, where many things of interest are to be seen. The city of Monte Video stands on a strip of land, which forms the eastern side of a small bay, on the north bank of the river, but with our draught was not approachable within two miles from the shallowness of the water; what could be seen of the city from that distance was somewhat pleasing; the towers and domes of the cathedral, churches, and public buildings, probably appeared all the more charming and picturesque coming as we did from such a miserable place as the Falklands. On landing, I found the city laid out in the regular Spanish style, so prevalent in South America, that is, in rectangular blocks. The streets are wide and clean, intersecting each other at right angles. There is a large proportion of good dwelling-houses and shops, abounding in every necessary and luxury. The Cathedral Square, with its charming gardens and pleasant walks, where the