

winds and heavy seas made it both disagreeable and difficult to land, lying, as we did, fully two miles from the shore. It happened however to be a fine day on leaving, and a few hours were devoted to swinging ship for magnetic corrections and deviations. We then proceeded, under steam, out of the River La Plata. When off Maldonado Bay, we sounded and dredged in 13 fathoms, getting a good haul of fish, shrimps, holothuria, and dead shell.

On clearing the land, the barometer gave indications of a coming change in the weather, and, ere long, the wind freshened, and rain fell in torrents. It soon became evident we were in for one of the Pamparas, for which the Plata and its vicinity have been long celebrated, and which owe their name to the circumstance of their blowing from off the Pampas or plains.

All due preparations were made by shortening sail, and as the wind increased, it found us well prepared. Fortunately it did not last long, and the next day (Feb. 28) we were able to recommence sounding. Found bottom at 1900 fathoms; temperature 32.7° Fahr.; showing that we had again fallen in with the cold Antarctic current. During the following nine days, daily soundings were obtained from an average depth of 2700 fathoms, showing the same temperature results (for 400 fathoms from the bottom it was below 32° Fahr.). On the 9th March the depth was