

of about 7000 feet, 5000 feet below the summit of the Peak. With the friendly assistance of the British consul, their arrangements were all satisfactorily made. They went across the island to Orotava, whence they commenced the ascent of the mountain. They spent four nights camped on the high grounds. It was too early in the season to attempt the ascent of the Peak, and rather too early for natural-history work: the chief object was to get into the *modus operandi* of such expeditions in preparation for the future. Still, collections were made both in zoology and in geology, and the party were greatly interested in the wonderful atmospheric effects from their camping-ground above the lower stratum of clouds. The ship weighed anchor on the morning of Monday, the 10th, and took a sounding and dredging cruise among the islands. We dredged between Teneriffe and Palma, and passed close under Palma, near enough to see the outline and bounding wall of its wonderful crater; past Gomera, a fine rugged island, the coast showing the usual alternation—deep ravines and lava spurs covered with vines and maize. Past Hierro, or Ferro, another fine bold island, interesting as having been long regarded as the western point of the Old World, and on that account chosen as the zero in reckoning longitude. The zero-line passing through Hierro is still used in some countries, though the meridian of Greenwich is now almost universally employed for practical purposes, such as the construction of charts. The position of Hierro appears to have determined the line of division of the world on maps into an eastern and a western hemisphere.

We had splendid moonlight during our cruise, and although the Peak remained almost constantly shrouded in mist during the day, it shone out at night as a dazzling white cone through the rifts in the clouds.

We returned and anchored in Santa Cruz Bay on the morning of Thursday, the 13th.

Owing to the uncertain and boisterous weather, the temper-