

## CHAPTER IV.

## THE VOYAGE HOME.

The Strait of Magellan.—Dredging in Shallow Water.—The Falkland Islands.—Their Physical Features.—The Town of Stanley.—The Products and Commerce of the Falklands.—The Balsam-bog.—The Tussock-grass.—The Vegetation of the Falkland Islands.—A Peculiar Mode of Reproduction among the Echinoderms.—“Stone Rivers.”—The Temperature Section between the Falklands and the Mouth of the River Plate.—Montevideo.—Low Temperatures between Montevideo and Tristan d’Acunha.—Meridional Section along the Central Ridge of the Atlantic.—Ascension.—Physical Features.—An Island under Naval Discipline.—Voyage to Porto Praya and Porto Grande.—Soundings in the Eastern Trough of the Atlantic.—Vigo Bay.—Arrival at Spithead.

APPENDIX A.—Table of Temperatures observed between the Falkland Islands and Tristan d’Acunha.

APPENDIX B.—Table of Temperatures observed between Tristan d’Acunha and the Açores.

APPENDIX C.—Table of Serial Temperature Soundings down to 200 fathoms taken in the South and North Atlantic in the Year 1876.

APPENDIX D.—Specific-gravity Observations taken on the homeward voyage between the Falkland Islands and Portsmouth.

APPENDIX E.—List of the Stations in the Atlantic at which Observations were taken in the Year 1876.

ON the morning of the 20th of January, 1876, the *Challenger* passed through the “first narrows” of the Strait of Magellan, wind and tide in her favor, at the rate of about seventeen knots an hour; shortly after midday she rounded Cape Virgins, and a long, uneasy swell gave us somewhat unpleasant evidence of the most welcome fact that we were once more yielding to the pulses of the broad Atlantic.

For the previous three weeks we had been creeping down inside the islands from the Gulf of Peñas, through the Messier and the Sarmiento Channel and the Magellan Strait, sounding