

most euphonious of them all, is the one still mostly in use by their neighbors of South America.

The islands are about a hundred in number, but only two of them are of any size. They lie between the parallels of 51° and $52^{\circ} 45'$ S. and the meridians of $57^{\circ} 20'$ and $61^{\circ} 46'$ W. The climate is very miserable, considering that the latitude corresponds with that of Middlesex; for, though the thermometer rarely falls in winter much below the freezing-point, it rarely rises in summer much above $18^{\circ} \cdot 5$ C.; and fog and rain are so constant, and sunshine so scarce, that wheat will not ripen, barley and oats can scarcely be said to do so, and the common English vegetables will not produce seed in the gardens. Still the colony appears to be very healthy, the inhabitants seem to get thoroughly accustomed to their moist, chilly surroundings, and the only "pale maidens" to be seen are the drooping delicate flowers of *Sisyrinchium filifolium*, which cover the camp round Stanley in early spring, and have earned that pretty sobriquet. Of late years the industry of the Falkland Islands has been developing most rapidly. It has been found that the pasture is even more suitable for sheep than for cattle; and in 1872 the Falkland Islands Company alone had a flock of from forty to fifty thousand of the best English breeds, a number which has since greatly increased. The wool is said to be remarkably fine in quality. In various parts of the islands the cattle, although now nominally belonging to some proprietor or lessee, are nearly wild; and the skill shown by the Buenos-Ayreal Guachos in hunting them down and capturing them with the bolas is very remarkable. The Scottish shepherds, many of whom have settled in the islands of late years, are, however, rapidly becoming as expert as their less civilized predecessors. A wild dog was common on both islands some years ago, but on the east island it is now nearly exterminated.

On the day of our arrival, Captain Thomson and I paid our respects to the governor, Colonel D'Arcy, and we found him