

only one or two fishes, some medusæ, and a caridid shrimp, so that there was no actual evidence of its having reached the bottom.

On the 12th we sounded in 2425 fathoms, and took a series of temperatures. The upper temperatures were decidedly higher than they were the day before, 5° C. occurring at 125 fathoms, $2^{\circ}\cdot5$ C. at 700, and 2° C. at 1100 fathoms. The position of the sounding was lat. $41^{\circ} 45'$ S., long. $54^{\circ} 46'$ W.; it was nearly double the distance of the previous sounding from the 100-fathom line, which very nearly corresponds with a submarine cliff of great height. The bottom temperature was $-0^{\circ}\cdot4$ C. On the 14th we sounded in 600 fathoms on the plateau extending from the South American coast, opposite the estuary of the River Plate, 144 miles from Labos Island. We took a set of temperatures to the bottom, and found the gradation, so far as it went, very much the same as on the 12th. The bottom temperature was $2^{\circ}\cdot7$ C. On this occasion the trawl was most successful, and gave us a good idea of the fauna of moderate depths along the coast. Probably not fewer than sixty species of different groups were recovered, including a very handsome Pennatulid between two and three feet in height, some deep-sea corals of very special interest, and some fine Echinoderms and sponges. On the 15th we anchored in Montevideo Roads.

We left the anchorage of Montevideo at day-break on the 25th of February, and, after swinging ship for errors of the compasses, we proceeded down the estuary. In the afternoon the trawl was put over in 13 fathoms to get an idea of the fauna of the brackish water. The species procured were comparatively few, but among them was a plentiful supply of an interesting alcyonarian of the genus *Renilla*, which, although well known, had not been met with by us before. On the two following days we crossed the shallow-water plateau, and on the 28th we sounded and trawled in 1900 fathoms, over the ledge.