

it. We had all many friends in the fleet, and much to say and hear. While we were lying in Vigo Bay, we were aware of a change of the weather, the clouds hurrying up from the south-west; so, early in the afternoon of the 21st, we weighed and proceeded to sea. Our anticipations were not disappointed; outside the bay it was blowing half a gale from the south-west, and the old *Challenger* sped across the Bay of Biscay and up Channel at a pace very unusual to her. On the evening of the 23d we passed Ushant Light, and at 9.15 P.M., on the 24th of May, 1876, after an absence of three years and a half, we stopped and came to an anchor in seven fathoms' water at Spithead.

II.—16