



H. M. S. Challenger—Shortening Sail to Sound.

CHAPTER XIII.

Fiji Islands to the New Hebrides Islands—Halobates—Api—The Macrura—Raine Island—Cape York—
Arrou Islands—Ki Islands—Banda Group.

Fiji Islands to the New Hebrides.

ON the 11th August 1874, at 6 P.M., after swinging for magnetic purposes, the ship finally left the Fiji Islands, all sail being made to the westward. Mount Washington was in sight all day.

On the 12th, at 6 A.M., a sounding, trawling, and temperatures were taken in 1350 fathoms, at Station 175 (see Sheet 27). The trawl caught at the bottom, but was successfully cleared and brought to the surface at 3 P.M.

On the 15th another sounding and serial temperatures were taken in 1450 fathoms. From the 11th to the 15th, wet changeable weather was experienced, the wind blowing chiefly from N.E., but never remaining steady. On the 13th the fore topgallant mast and flying jib-boom were carried away in a rain squall before sail could be shortened.

The deposits at 1350 and 1450 fathoms were *Globigerina* oozes of a reddish colour, closely resembling the red clays in that respect. They contained respectively 45 and 61 per cent. of carbonate of lime, consisting of *Rhabdoliths*, *Coccoliths*, the shells of *Globigerina*, *Orbulina*, *Hastigerina*, *Pulvinulina*, *Sphæroidina*, *Pullenia*, and some bottom-living species. A few of the *Globigerina* shells had still the delicate spines attached as in the specimens taken on the surface. The absence of Pteropod, Heteropod, and other pelagic Molluscan shells from these deposits is somewhat remarkable, for they were very abundant