

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

The ship had a fairly fine passage across from Magellan Strait to the Falkland Islands, although the early part of the 22nd January was so thick that the land was not seen until close to the Jason Cays. The ship rounded the East Jason Cay at 4 P.M. on that day, and was steered along the north side of the islands, rounding Cape Carysfort at 8.30 A.M. on the 23rd, and anchoring in Port Stanley at 3 P.M. the same day.

A question having arisen as to whether the sea level at the Falkland Islands was not becoming gradually lowered, or, what comes to the same thing, whether the islands were not being gradually elevated, instructions had been received to investigate the matter.

On the ship's arrival at Stanley a tide-pole was set up at once, and a party was landed to register the tide night and day. Inquiries were then made respecting the

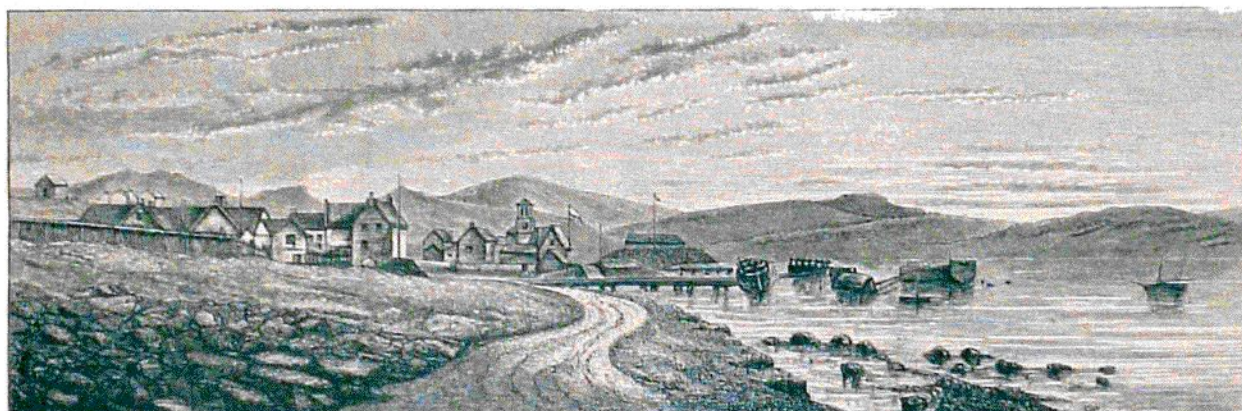


FIG. 327.—Stanley, Falkland Islands.

reasons which had induced the residents to assert that an alteration in the sea level was in progress. On this point no satisfactory information could be obtained, nor indeed any precise reason as to why they had come to such a conclusion,—except that as usual that mythical personage the oldest inhabitant had stated that the tides now-a-days were quite different from those he remembered when first he came to the island, just as old sailors are never tired of asserting that the storms now experienced are by no means so violent as they were when they first went to sea in that fine old clipper the “Three Grandmothers” of Shields. It therefore seemed that the inhabitants of Stanley had reported an alteration of sea level without having taken any pains to investigate the matter even in the roughest manner, for they could show no difference in the tidal marks on the beach, nor any alteration of the sea level with reference to the many rocks in the neighbourhood of the harbour, some of which being covered at high water, and others a foot or two above high water, afford excellent standard marks for testing a