CHAPTER XX.

TAHITI. JUAN FERNANDEZ.

Death of Rudolph Von Willemoes Suhm. Scientific Papers and Journals left by him. Papeete. Excursion into the Mountains. Fly-Fishing in a Mountain Stream. Uses of the Wild Banana. Vegetation Composed mainly of Ferns. Camping at Night. Tahitian Mountain Map. Ascent to 4,000 feet Altitude. Petrels Nesting at this Height. Their possible Influence in Distribution of Plants. Ignorance of the Natives concerning the Mountains. Mode of Alternation of Generations in the Mushroom Coral. Structure of Millepora. Structure of the Stylasteridæ. Catching Land-Crabs. Tahitian National Air. Juan Fernandez. Preponderance of Ferns. Destruction of Trees. Gunnera Chilensis. Conspicuous Flowers. Humming Birds of the Island. Their Fertilization of Flowers. Smallness of the Island compared with the Number of Endemic Forms. Endemic Palm. Dendroseris.

Tahiti. Society Islands, September 18th to October 3rd, 1875.—The voyage to Tahiti occupied a month. It was painfully impressed upon the memories of us all by the death of Von Willemoes Suhm, which was caused by a rapid and virulent attack of erysipelas. Rudolph von Willemoes Suhm had been, before he joined the "Challenger" Expedition, assistant to the illustrious Professor von Siebold of Munich. He had distinguished himself by his researches as a naturalist before he joined the "Challenger."

He left many descriptions of animals and drawings, some complete, others only partly finished. They comprehended about 72 plates of octavo size and a few drawings of larger size. Amongst these there are 13 of Annelids, mostly from the deep sea. About 50 are of Crustacea, including five showing the development of *Euphausia* complete from the *Nauplius* stage; six illustrating the development of two species of *Sergestes*, and three on the development of *Amphion*. Four are of Pteropods. One of these, labelled by Von Suhm as *Clionider Pteropod*, is a most remarkable form, with large eyes borne on long stalks. Von Suhm was uncertain whether it was to be regarded as the larva of a new form of Cephalopod.