

2. CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The few fishes collected at the Cape do not offer any particular interest.

(a.) *Marine Species.*

Chorisochismus dentex, Pall., Simon's Bay.

Tetrodon honckeni, Bl., Cape of Good Hope (the poison-fish of Simon's Bay).

Bdellostoma cirrhatum, Forst., Simon's Bay.

(b.) *Fresh-water Species.*

Spirobranchus capensis, C.V., Rivers at Wellington and Cape Town.

Barbus afer, Ptrs., Rivers at Wellington and Cape Town.

Barbus, sp. (?), in bad state; River at Cape Town.

II. THE FISH-FAUNA OF THE ANTARCTIC OCEAN AND OF SHORES ABUTTING ON IT.

The study of the Antarctic surface fish-fauna, and its comparison with that of the Arctic Regions, is one of the most instructive portions of zoogeography. The abundance of fish-life appears to decrease in the same proportion towards both Poles. The forms peculiar to the Antarctic are analogous to those of the North; thus the Cottoids of the North are represented by the *Nototheniæ*, *Chænichthys*, &c., of the South, the Salmonoids by the *Haplochitonidæ*; yet there is no such relation between the representative forms as might be considered to be genetic. The resemblance is rather an external one, indicated by the general form of the body, structure and development of the fins, presence of an adipose fin, &c. Beside those fishes which are peculiar to the Antarctic, some other forms well developed in the North, but nearly or entirely disappearing between the Tropics, reappear, as *Sebastes*, *Agonus*, *Spinax*, *Myxine*, differing but little from their northern congeners.

The Expedition obtained the fishes belonging to this fauna at two points.

A. KERGUELEN ISLAND AND PRINCE EDWARD'S ISLAND.

Except a flat fish from Prince Edward's Island, the specimens were collected on the north-eastern side of Kerguelen Island, between the 7th and 31st of January 1874. Nearly all we know of the fishes of this island is due to the Naturalists of the Antarctic Expedition under Captain Ross, and to those of the "Transit of Venus" and Challenger Expeditions. The number of species known is very small, the following three only having been described, besides those obtained on the present Expedition:—