

THROUGH THE MESSIER CHANNEL, SARMIENTO CHANNEL, AND STRAIT OF
MAGELLAN TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

The Messier and Sarmiento Channels.—On the 31st December, at 9.15 A.M., the Peninsula of Tres Montes was seen through the mist, and at 10.45 A.M. Cape Raper was observed ahead. A fine westerly breeze was blowing, but the weather was cloudy and misty, with passing showers of drizzle until noon, at which time Cape Gallegos bore north and Cape Raper N.E. by E. $\frac{1}{4}$ E. The afternoon was fine, especially after Cape Tres Montes was passed at 2 P.M., and there was a remarkably fine view of this iron-bound coast, off which, fortunately, there is no outlying danger, or it would probably have been the scene of many a shipwreck besides that of H.M.S. "Wager" in 1741. At 3 P.M. Cape Stokes was rounded, and shortly afterwards a sounding and dredging obtained in 40 fathoms, with the rock off the left extremity of the Peninsula of Tres Montes $17^{\circ} 20'$ Cape Stokes $75^{\circ} 20'$ right extremity of Entrance Isles. At 5 P.M. the ship proceeded towards Port Otway, anchoring there at 6.30 P.M. A party from the ship landed for a short time; the rock at the landing place was a dolomitic limestone.

On the 1st January 1876, at 5 A.M., the Expedition left Port Otway, and proceeded across the Gulf of Penas towards the Messier Channel, in order to pass through the Inner Straits from the Gulf of Penas to the Strait of Magellan. The morning was bright and fine, though misty. At 6 A.M. Cape Stokes was passed and a S.E. $\frac{1}{2}$ S. course shaped for the Ayantau Islands. The rock off Cape Stokes is about 3 feet high and flat, but that off the point next west of Cape Stokes is about 60 feet high. At 10 A.M. the Ayantau Islands were seen and they were passed shortly after noon. By a good meridian altitude the peak of the largest island of this group was found to be in lat. $47^{\circ} 35' 30''$ S. instead of lat. $47^{\circ} 38'$ S., as marked in the chart supplied. At 2 P.M. a sounding was obtained in 165 fathoms, blue mud, with Sombrero Peak S. 82° E., Ayantau Peak N. 12° W., Mount Anson west, Southeast Hill S. 67° W., the left extremity of Penguin Island S. $27\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ E., and Mount Baker S. 59° E. Proceeding towards Penguin Island, the ship was stopped at 2.45 P.M., and exploring parties were sent on shore, together with an officer to obtain a few angles, but the weather becoming cloudy with a drizzling rain, no angles could be taken. In the meantime the ship sounded and trawled in 125 fathoms, with Sombrero Island Peak N. 65° E., Ayantau Peak N. 12° W., Pedro Island N. 57° W., and Mount Baker N. 69° E., and afterwards in 160 fathoms, with Ayantau Island N. 14° W. and Sombrero Island N. 72° E. On Penguin Island the rocks were an altered diabase and amphibolic granite. At 4 P.M. the exploring and surveying parties returned, the trawl was hove up, and at 4.30 P.M. the ship proceeded for Hale Cove, the weather still rainy and thick. At 5 P.M., however, the rain ceased, and at 6 P.M. the weather was again bright and clear. The vessel passed close along the west sides of Baker, Scout, Scylla, and Alert Islands, and the kelp reported by the "Alert" was