

THE
VOYAGE OF H.M.S. CHALLENGER.

BOTANY.

REPORT on the BOTANY OF THE BERMUDAS and various other ISLANDS of the ATLANTIC and SOUTHERN OCEANS. By W. BOTTING HEMSLEY, A.L.S.

SECOND PART.

ST PAUL'S ROCKS.

INTRODUCTORY NOTES.

THESE rocks lie in about 29° W. long. and 1° N. lat., and are about 540 miles distant from the coast of South America, and 350 miles from the island of Fernando-Noronha. They are scarcely more than half a mile in circumference, and their highest point is only sixty-four feet above sea-level. The group resembles a horse-shoe in shape, and consists of five peaks of rock disposed in four principal masses; and the rocks have been classed as serpentine.¹ They support absolutely no vegetation beyond a few algæ. Various travellers have landed, though even in ordinary weather there is some difficulty in doing so, in consequence of the great rapidity of the current on the one side and the heavy swell in the most sheltered parts. Mr Moseley appears to be the only person who has collected what the rocks offer in the form of vegetable life, and his account of the visit of the expedition in the Journal of the Linnean Society of London (xiv. p. 354), which is here reproduced, embodies all that is known of their botany:—

“ Darwin, in his Naturalist's Voyage, describes the utterly barren condition of St Paul's Rocks as far as vegetation is concerned, not even a single lichen having been found by him. He speaks

¹ For a full account of the Petrology of these Rocks, see Narr. Chall. Exp., vol. ii., Appendix B.; and vol. i. chap. vi.