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In the work-room was disclosed, by aid of the microscope, to the observer, an entirely new world in the economy of nature as displayed in animal life from the surface of the sea.

During the passage many events took place which, although trivial in themselves, contributed to render the voyage less tedious and monotonous. Occasionally we spoke or sighted a vessel, or fell in with a barnacle-covered fragment of timber, which was secured and overhauled for the sake of any living creatures adhering to its sides. But what seemed to impart an extra interest to our every-day life, when clear of the Tropics, was the vast number of sea-birds constantly accompanying us, probably attracted by the numerous fragments of provisions thrown overboard.

Cape pigeons, those prettily marked birds about the size of doves, the majestic albatross, stormy petrels of all sizes, follow on in motley groups, never seeming to weary in their search for food. These birds appear to possess a remarkable capacity for remembering the exact time when they are likely to get a feed, for day after day, soon after noon, the vicinity of the vessel was usually animated with their shrill shrieking and fighting with each other for the dainty morsels thrown overboard.

The soundings appeared to indicate that a bank with about 2000 fathoms of water on it connects the Tristan Islands with the coast of South America. The dredgings were not quite so productive as had