

we might probably have caused to his jetty and bollards, if a south-easter should come on, which seemed very likely at this season; so we had to be visited at this distance, with all the inconveniences of again reaching the shore.

A ball was given during our stay in the Commercial Buildings. Our guests told us that nothing so perfect and complete had ever been held before. Concerning the decorations, they were particularly enthusiastic, for there were, as novelties, trophies of dredging and sounding apparatus, with flags, flowers, and evergreens, giving certainly a very pleasing effect. Suffice it to say, all passed off most agreeably. The following night the citizens of Cape Town gave a return ball in the same building, when everything was done by them to insure success, and, without any flattery, nothing could have exceeded the completeness of the arrangements or the hospitality of the givers. * * * The next day the ship was swung in the Bay for magnetic corrections, after which we proceeded to Simon's Bay to complete stores and refitment. This was finished by the 16th December, and the next day we steamed out of Simon's Bay for our Antarctic cruise.

The weather was beautifully fine, and as Cape Point was passed, and the high land of the Table Mountains receded from our sight, a southerly course was shaped: and on the 19th, 80 miles to the southward of the Cape, we entered the Agulhas