

while the bands were playing appropriate and inspiring airs.

The weather had moderated as we reached the mid-channel, passing round Fort Dennison, Bradley, and through the Heads.

On clearing the harbour we found a rough and troubled sea; so in sight of the land we rolled about most unpleasantly all night.

*June 9th.*—A gale of wind and heavy and rolling seas prevented any sounding or dredging being undertaken; and, as the day advanced, it was found necessary to return to port once more, anchoring within Sydney Heads, in Watson's Bay; remaining here until the weather moderated, which was not until the 12th, when a second attempt was made. Immediately on getting well clear of the land, soundings were commenced, and bottom was found at 85 fathoms. Eight or ten miles farther it was found to deepen to 120 fathoms; about the same distance, again, it had deepened to 290 fathoms. The next day's soundings indicated 1200 fathoms, the bottom showing sand and mud. Course was now altered nearer the shore until in a depth of 400 fathoms, when dredging operations recommenced, but nothing of any importance was obtained.

A heavy gale now sprung up, and we got into deeper water, the next sounding giving 2100 fathoms, with a bottom of mud. In this rough and tempestuous weather the following day observations were