

CHAPTER II.

FROM PORTSMOUTH TO TENERIFFE.

Departure from England.—Rough Weather in the Channel.—Lisbon.—Trawling in Deep Water.—Deep-water Fishes.—Surface Animals.—Gibraltar.—*Cystosoma Neptuni*.—Venus's Flower-basket.—*Naresia cyathus*.—The "Clustered Seapolyp."—Madeira.—Temperature Observations.—Meteorological Observations.—Teneriffe.

APPENDIX A.—Particulars of Depth, Temperature, and Position at the Sounding Stations between Portsmouth and Teneriffe ; Temperatures corrected for pressure.

APPENDIX B.—Comparative Table of the Indications of Stevenson's Mean Thermometers, and the ordinary Maximum and Minimum Thermometers in Air, for the six months from the 1st of May to the 31st of October, 1873.

WE were well aware that we had many difficulties to contend with before we could get so complicated a system into full working order. There seemed, at first, to be special difficulty in dredging and taking deep-sea observations from so large a ship. The roll of the ship, her height above the water, and her want of flexibility of movement when compared with vessels which had previously been used for the purpose, raised new questions as to methods of working which it would require some time to settle, and it would likewise take some time before each of us fell into his place and laid out a line for himself, as part of a general programme. We therefore determined, very early in the cruise, to consider every thing done during the voyage from England to the Canary Islands as tentative and introductory, and to regard the first section across the Atlantic, from Teneriffe to the West Indies, as the commencement of the true work of the expedition.

December 30th.—In the forenoon, the weather was much more moderate, and the first sounding was taken off the entrance of Vigo Bay at a depth of 1125 fathoms, with a bottom