

patches were not seen, but the shoal patches southward of the 5 fathom patch were readily distinguished from aloft. When near the Ashmore Banks the position of the ship by bearings of them placed her considerably farther to the northward than the bearing of Hardy Island, which would indicate that these banks are not so far apart as shown on the chart. At 4.20 P.M. sail was shortened and the vessel stood on under the jib and spanker, with the intention of anchoring on one of the shoal patches of from 6 to 10 fathoms; several were passed, but they were in each case so small that before the ship could "round to" the depth was again 25 fathoms. Eventually the vessel was anchored in 10 fathoms, but slipped off into 21 fathoms, the anchorage bearings being right extremity of Hardy Island S. 68° W., and the south small island S. 44° W. The weather was very misty, the trade wind strong, and there was a nasty sea which made it necessary to veer 125 fathoms of cable.

On the 1st September the anchor was weighed, and sail made at 7 A.M., the vessel standing towards the Cockburn Reef, which was sighted at 7.30 A.M. The route pursued was that recommended by the sailing directions and chart, the position of the ship being fixed by the Cockburn and Hardy Islands, the main reliance, of course, being placed in the lookout from aloft, which duty was personally undertaken by the Captain. When abreast of the sandbank on the small reef just to the northwestward of the northwest point of the Cockburn Reef, the ship passed between it and the reef, steering towards the Bird Islands, no bottom being obtained at 20 fathoms with the deep-sea lead. At 0.30 P.M. the vessel passed Halfway Island, and at 2.30 P.M. between Cairncross Islands and Bushy Rocks. At 5 P.M. York Island was seen in line with Osnaburgh Point, and a course shaped for Port Albany, and, shortening sail, the ship proceeded into the pass under steam, and was moored opposite the settlement at Somerset at 6 P.M. The wind was fresh all day, the ship going 10 knots per hour, and making, with the current, 11½ knots over the ground; the atmosphere was very misty.

SOMERSET, CAPE YORK.

As the vessel entered Albany Pass every one was struck with the strange appearance of the wonderful Termite hills, which stood in numbers on each grassy point, some 12 feet in height, red pinnacles looking like the chimneys of pottery kilns (see Pl. XX.).

The half dozen houses of the settlement are those built originally by the marines, who were taken away in 1867. They are one-storied wooden bungalows, situated on the hills which rise on each side of a bay, and are readily seen from the anchorage. One was occupied temporarily by the London Missionary Society, who were then endeavouring to establish themselves in New Guinea, gradually working their way from the islands to the mainland.