steer? What part of the sea should they explore? Application was then made to the conductors of the Washington Observatory for instructions what route to follow. The hope founded on the scientific lore of Captain Maury was not deceived. After examining all the data he possessed in reference to the direction and limits of the Gulf Stream at that time of the year, the celebrated hydrographer drew a chart of the region in which the dismasted steamer would probably be carried by the current, and defined the route to be followed by the two steam-tugs despatched to her assistance.

The crew of the *San Francisco* were saved by three ships, which had descried her in the open sea, before the New York steam-tugs arrived. But the point where they saw the steamer founder, shortly after the rescue of her crew, was precisely that which Captain Maury had laid down. Had but the tugs set out in time from New York, his triumph would have been complete. We may note, moreover, that the *Kilby*, which had caught sight of the drifting ship by day, and had lost it during the following night, succeeded in recovering it by a course of reasoning analogous to Captain Maury's, and was thus enabled, in conjunction with two other vessels, to save those on board.

We shall now continue our survey of the Ocean-Currents.

The equinoctial current of the Pacific traverses the great ocean throughout its entire extent, and then bifurcates off the Asiatic coast. Its feebler branch wheels to the north, where it encounters the polar current descending through Behring's Strait, and then returns along the coast of California. Its more considerable branch inflects towards the south, and sweeps around Australia. But here we meet with one or more counter-currents coming from the Indian Sea—the complicated and dangerous currents described by La Perouse and Cook.

The cold waters of the Antarctic pole are carried towards the equator by three great oceanic "rivers."

The first divides in lat. 45° S.; one arm doubles Cape Horn; the other (known as *Humboldt's Current*) ascends the coast of Chili as far as the equator; it tempers the climate both of Chili and Peru.

The second great current sweeps towards the Cape of Good Hope, where it separates into two arms, and embraces the east and west coasts of Africa.

And, third, the polar current of the Indian Ocean skirts the shore of Australia, turns, first, towards the west, then wheels to the south, in the direction of Madagascar; further to the south, it is driven