

the mean temperature of the climate at this season. It was found to be 70°, in a horizontal hole, twelve feet from the surface.

On the 1st February, the Peacock, Porpoise, and tenders, were engaged looking for their anchors; the latter regained theirs, but the former was lost, the buoy having sunk.

El Carmen may be termed a convict settlement; for culprits and exiles are sent here from Buenos Ayres. The garrison is composed of about two hundred soldiers, principally African and Brazilian slaves brought here during the Banda Oriental war. Among them we found a person who called himself an American, from Rhode Island, by name Benjamin Harden, junior, who was desirous of claiming our protection. He was of small stature, slender make, and a light complexion, with a mild expression of countenance, and about thirty years of age. His story was, that he had been by chance in Buenos Ayres at the time when the government was in want of troops, and that he was seized and compelled to enlist. On inquiring, however, of the governor, it proved that he had been engaged in a riot at Buenos Ayres, in which he had killed two or three men, and committed other outrages, for which he had been condemned to death, but on the intercession of a friend, the sentence was commuted to that of exile as a soldier at this place. His farther history is, that not long since he formed the plan of deserting with another convict, by seizing an English trading vessel, in the absence of the captain and part of the crew, and making off with her, which he was fully able to accomplish, being an excellent sailor. The night however before the day fixed on for the execution of this plan, he got intoxicated, discovered the whole design, and received the severe punishment of twelve hundred lashes, at three different times.

On the morning of the departure of the schooner, he effected his escape from the town, and swam off to the schooner. He was recognised by an officer, who knew his history in part, namely, that he had become a robber and a murderer, and had been an outcast from his father's house for fifteen years. He was told that he could not be received on board, and a boat landed him again.

On the 3d of February we got under way, and were glad to leave so exposed and unpleasant an anchorage.

On the 4th and 5th, we experienced a heavy sea from the southward, with much wind.

Finding the tenders were much distressed while keeping company with the ships in the heavy sea, I made signal to them to make the best of their way to Orange Harbour, judging that I should thus save much time, as well as great wear and tear to the vessels: they would