

Though strictly applicable with reference to the intercourse between Europe and the Pacific, this overlooks those portions of both North and South Western America to which these routes are unquestionably useful communications.

The direct distance to Sydney, as appears from the tables already given, is about 12,491 miles, or about 200 miles shorter than by the Cape of Good Hope, or by Cape Horn.

The actual course of a sailing vessel is, however, given as follows:—

“Sydney to 120° W. long. between 33° and 36° S. lat.; passing north of New Zealand to the parallel of Coquimbo, to Callao, and Panama to Chagres and England 15,848 miles,”

Whereas by “Cape Horn to the Straits of Le Maire, passing south of New Zealand, thence to 40° S. lat., to Cape Frio, to the Equator, and to England 13,380 miles.”

A difference of 2,018 miles against Panama.

Again, to China,—the course of a sailing vessel would be:—

“To 28° N. lat. and 30° W. long.; thence to the Straits between San Lucia and St. Vincent, to Chagres, Panama, south of the Sandwich Islands (by reason of the trades), to the Ladrões, then North or South, because of the Monsoons, then to Canton 15,760 miles.”

The return voyage must either be made against 8000 miles of strong head winds from the Ladrões to China, or the Coast of Japan must be followed, the ocean be crossed to Oregon, the Coast then followed to Panama, thence from Chagres to Havanna, and again following the coast and keeping the Gulf stream past Halifax to England.

By the Cape of Good Hope routes have been suggested which a screw vessel may follow to avail herself of the S.E. trade, to Sydney.

1. Touching at the Cape of Good Hope:—

	Nautical Miles.
Southampton to Panama	2,374
Bonavista to Equator, 18° W.	1,012
Equator, 18° W. to 28° 0' S., 26° 15' W.	1,746
28° 0' S., 26° 15' W. to Cape (Gr. C.)	2,304
Cape to Wilson's Promontory (Gr. C.), Composite route, maximum lat. 47½° S.	5,687
Wilson's Promontory to Sydney	443
	<hr/> 13,566

2. Without touching at the Cape:—

Southampton to 28° 0' S., 26° 15' W.	5,132
28° 0' S., 26° 15' W., to Wilson's Promontory	7,705
Wilson's Promontory to Sydney	443
	<hr/> 13,250

This would also be the course of a sailing vessel to Sydney, and shows about the same superiority as the route by Cape Horn over that by Panama in point of distance. It has the advantage of better weather.

	Miles.
To China the distance would be about	14,530
And the return voyage	13,330

The voyages have, however, averaged an equal length of about 120 days, out and home. The shortest voyage was made in 1842, by a man-of-war outward bound, which reached China in 85 days.

By British America:—The effect of the trade winds is to add very considerably to the distances by Panama; but they do not increase those by British America. To or from Vancouver's Island, either way the wind is either fair or favourable,

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