

dredging excursions—in which their fair friends manifested an interest not altogether scientific. In the Paramatta River dredging was conducted by a steam-launch, brought from England for such purposes, as shown in the engraving.



DREDGING ON THE PARAMATTA RIVER, SYDNEY.

Very reluctantly, after a three months' stay, our explorers tore themselves from the hospitalities of their Australian friends and sailed for New Zealand, which they reached by the end of June. Here one of the scientific staff was unhappily swept overboard by a heavy sea and drowned. The volcanic and craggy scenery of New Zealand is very grand, abounding in frightful chasms and tremendous cliffs. "Planted in the very track of storms, open to the sweep of seas from every quarter, and exposed to the swell of huge waves that run from pole to pole," its rugged coast is eaten into wildest forms and ceaselessly lashed by an angry surf. Hot springs abound close to glaciers and eternal snows; earthquakes are common, and active volcanoes are not unknown, while the valleys abound with tropical jungle and tree ferns. Yet amid these rugged scenes British pluck has constructed a railway, and the shriek of the iron horse awakens the echoes of the mountains and disturbs the quiet of the Maori villages.