

## CHAPTER XXIV

### THE PACIFIC (ROSS) QUADRANT

*(From 90° West to 180° West)*

THIS quadrant is the southerly extension of the vast Pacific Ocean, after which it is named. Its strictly oceanic character is indicated by the fact that south of the 50th parallel there are but two tiny islands north of the circle, — Dougherty on the 120th meridian, and Nimrod on the 160th. It thence follows that it is the least known, as one third of the circle is in regions never crossed. Indeed, between 90° W., and 150° W., the Antarctic Zone has been entered only by Cook, 1773 and 1774; Bellingshausen, 1821; Walker and Ringgold, 1840; Gerlache, 1899; and Charcot, 1909.

Cook's entrance in 147° W., 1773, was followed next year by his astonishing southing of 71° 10' S., 106° 54' W., without finding any indications of land.

Crossing thrice into the antarctic regions, Bellingshausen here made his highest latitude and also discovered the first land in the quadrant. He reached 67° S., 164° 34' W., on December 24, 1820; 67° 30' S., 120° W., on January 11, 1821; and his farthest south, 69° 53' S., 92° 19' W., on January 21. His discovery of the first antarctic