

we shall find them teeming with animal life; the extreme pressure at the greatest depth does not appear to affect these creatures; hitherto we have not been able to determine this point beyond a thousand fathoms, but from that depth several shell-fish have been brought up with the mud."

On the 28th of June 1845, Mr. Henry Goodsir, who was a member of Sir John Franklin's ill-fated expedition, obtained in Davis' Strait from a depth of 300 fathoms, "a capital haul,—mollusca, crustacea, asterida, spatangi, corallines, &c." ¹ The bottom was composed of fine green mud like that mentioned by Sir Edward Sabine.

About the year 1854 Passed-midshipman Brooke, U.S.N., invented his ingenious sounding instrument for bringing up samples from the bottom. It only brought up a small quantity in a quill. These trophies from any depth over 1,000 fathoms were eagerly sought for by naturalists and submitted to searching microscopic examination; and the result was very surprising. All over the Atlantic basin the sediment brought up was nearly uniform in character, and consisted almost entirely of the calcareous shells, whole or in fragments, of one species of foraminifer, *Globigerina bulloides* (Fig. 2). Mixed with these were the shells of some other foraminifera, and particularly a little perforated sphere, *Orbulina universa* (Fig. 3), which in some localities entirely replaces *Globigerina*; with a few shields of diatoms, and spines and trellised skeletons of Radiolaria. Some soundings from the Pacific were of the same character, so

¹ Natural History of the British Seas. By Professor Edward Forbes and R. Godwin-Austen. P. 51.