

we were compelled to lie-to under canvas, drifting to the northward towards the edge of the Færoe Banks, any attempt to dredge being out of the question. On the 13th, during a lull, we sounded and found no bottom at 450 fathoms (Station 1, Pl. I.), with a minimum temperature of 9°·5 C., the temperature of the surface water being 12°·5 C. This was so high a temperature for so considerable a depth that we suspected some error in the indications of the thermometers, three of Six's registering instruments of the Hydrographic Office pattern. Subsequent observations however in the same locality showed us that the temperature to the depth of 600 to 700 fathoms in that region is the moderate temperature of the northward current of the gulf stream.

The Færoe Banks are greatly frequented in the fishing season by English and foreign fishing-smacks. Of course the principal object is to prepare cured or hard-fish, but many of the English vessels are welled for the supply of fresh cod for the London market.

A large square tank occupies the middle of the vessel, and holes in the sides allow the water to pass freely through it. The water in the tank is thus kept perfectly fresh; the best of the cod are put into it, and they stand the voyage perfectly. It is curious to see the great creatures moving gracefully about in the tank like gold-fish in a glass globe. They are no doubt 'quite unaccustomed to man,' and consequently they are tame; and with their long smooth mottled faces, their huge mouths, and lidless un-speculative eyes, they are about as unfamiliar objects as one can well see. They seem rather to like to be scratched, as they are greatly infested by *caligi*