

living among the recent chalk-mud of the Atlantic sea-bed, will be discussed in a future chapter.

While we were examining our wonderful dredge-load the little 'Porcupine' was steaming slowly southwards—past the island of Rona, and Cape Wrath looking out into the north cold and blue, with the waves now curled up asleep at its feet, as if they never did any harm; past the welcome Butt of the Lewis, and into the little harbour of Stornoway. Here we remained some days; not sorry—even although our cruise had been thoroughly pleasant—to exchange the somewhat cramped routine of life in a gun-boat for the genial hospitalities of Stornoway Castle.

The fauna of the 'warm area' is under circumstances altogether special and peculiar, which must be discussed in full hereafter. While the cold area is sharply restricted, the warm area extends continuously from the Færoes to the Strait of Gibraltar. At all events the same conditions are continuous; but as will be explained more fully hereafter, the whole 600 or 700 fathoms of water down to the bottom at the mouth of the Færoe Channel, corresponds with the surface layer only to a like depth in the Rockall Channel or in the Atlantic basin. The first 700 to 800 fathoms in all cases are actually warm, but where the depth greatly exceeds 800 fathoms, there is a mass of cold water beneath sinking slowly to nearly the freezing-point. The bottom therefore, the habitation of the fauna, is only warm where the depth is not greater than 800 fathoms, and in such a case only can the term 'warm area' be correctly applied. Such are the conditions off Færoe, and it is this which makes the contrast