

hour. The dredge was nearly full of a tenacious yellowish mud, through which sparkled innumerable long spicules of the *Hyalonema*; indeed, if you drew your fingers slowly through the mud, you would thereby gather a handful of these spicules. One specimen of *Hyalonema*, with the long spicules inserted into the mud and crowned with its expanded sponge-like portions, rewarded my first attempt at dredging at such a depth."¹ This dredging is of especial interest, for it shows that although difficult and laborious, and attended with a certain amount of risk, it is not impossible in an open boat and with a crew of alien fishermen, to test the nature of the bottom and the character of the fauna, even to the great depth of 500 fathoms.

In the year 1868, Count L. F. de Pourtales, one of the officers employed in the United States Coast Survey under Professor Pierce, commenced a series of deep dredgings across the gulf-stream off the coast of Florida; which were continued in the following year, and were productive of most valuable results. Many important memoirs at the hands of Count Pourtales, Mr. Alexander Agassiz, Mr. Theodore Lyman and others, have since enriched the pages of the Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, and have greatly extended our knowledge of the deep-sea gulf-stream fauna; and much information has been gained as to the nature of the bottom in those regions, and the changes which are there taking place. Unfortunately a large part of the collections were in Chicago in the

¹ Notes on Deep-sea Dredging, by Edward Perceval Wright, M.D., F.L.S., from the Annals and Magazine of Natural History for December 1868.