

observations as to depth, temperature, and nature of the bottom. These stoppages were about 100 miles apart, and each day, when the weather permitted, soundings and dredgings took place. For the first 250 miles the bottom of the ocean was found to be nearly level at a depth of about 2000 fathoms, consisting, for the most part, of the Globigerina ooze of the Atlantic. On proceeding some 50 miles farther to the westward, we sounded in 1500 fathoms, identically on the top of a ridge, where, after dredging for some time, a quantity of dead, hard, white coral, together with several beautiful specimens of sponge attached to its branches, was obtained. From this position soundings made the next day showed that the bottom sank rapidly until reaching a depth of 2700 and 2950 fathoms, from the first of which a few living specimens of starfish, annelids, &c., were obtained in the dredge; but the most remarkable fact was that with the increasing depth there was a gradual change in the character of the bottom.

On the 26th February, in latitude $23^{\circ} 23'$ north, longitude $35^{\circ} 10'$ west, being about 1600 miles from Sombrero Island, we sounded in 3150 fathoms. This was the greatest depth as yet met with, the material obtained from the bottom being quite new to science. For several days after, the dredge continued to bring up a dark chocolate or red clay, scarcely containing a trace of organic matter, and