within 200 miles of Sandy Hook, when it shallowed to 1700 fathoms.

The soundings taken in crossing and near the Gulf Stream were of very great interest. On each side the depths were found to be respectively 2400 and 1700 fathoms, grey ooze bottom; while in the stream itself the line ran out over 2600 fathoms without reaching the bottom. This sounding, however, was considered doubtful, there being a strong wind and current at the time dragging the line out of the perpendicular. The stream was found to be about 60 miles broad, which was easily detected by the 8° difference of temperature on entering and leaving.

This influential current, little as it may be appreciated in a general way, is of the greatest importance to those countries whose waters are influenced by its flow. It takes its rise in the Gulf of Mexico, though it might be regarded as a continuation of the equatorial current which flows from the western coast of Africa across the Atlantic, absorbing the sun's rays as it advances, and storing away the warmth for future use. It then passes into the Mexican Gulf, where its waters are raised to the high temperature of 86°, and then sweeps through the pass of Florida, skirting the shores of North America, until it takes that remarkable curve off Nova Scotia and Newfoundland which throws its waters across the Atlantic, towards the coast of Europe.