

May we anchor in English waters, after an absence of three years and a half.

A few days more, and we are at Sheerness and Chatham, amidst all the bustle and excitement attendant on returning stores and paying off.

Thus the cruise has been successfully accomplished, and the intentions of the expedition happily achieved. That it will exalt our national reputation to a very considerable extent, in one of the most popular branches of the service, cannot for a moment be doubted.\* The completion of surveys; the success of soundings; configuration of the depths of the great ocean, with its nature and temperatures, and the composition of its bottom, have all been investigated and carried out by the hydrographic staff; and Professor Thomson and his talented assistants may well be complimented on their labours, which have contributed such an abundance of material to the various departments of natural history and the other scientific branches under their direction.

By-and-by, when all these subjects shall have been investigated, and opinions formed from the numerous and valuable collections sent home from time to time, then—and only then—will a true idea be obtained of the activity and research of each member of the expedition during the course of the voyage.

\* The Geographical Congress held at Paris, August 1875, awarded to the members of the *Challenger* Expedition a first class medal as a token of admiration for the work done by them in the cause of science.