

Doubtless we shall be told of wondrous facts which will read like fairy tales; for previously no sounding-line had ever traversed the great oceans, or mapped out their figure. We now know that there are laws which govern the geographical distribution of marine plants and animals, as well as those we are familiar with on the earth's surface: of the myriads of curious creatures, organised with delicacy and beauty, existing in these previously unsounded depths; creatures with numberless eyes, and others without any; starfish, growing on long and slender stalks; of beautiful phosphorescent avenues of vegetation; fish of all hues, blue and gold, striped and banded, in all colours and sizes, from the tiniest infusoria to the huge whale.

It is impossible at present to foresee or estimate the vast amount of information that will result from this the greatest scientific expedition that ever sailed from any shore.

The last day has come (June 12th), when all these close associations will be severed; and each one of the *Challenger's* crew goes his own way, to seek relaxation and pleasure amongst home scenes and friends near and dear to him.

A last shake of the hand, with "Good luck and good-bye!" and so now, to you, my reader, I say farewell.