

When at length it settles, it forms a perfectly smooth red-brown paste, without the least feeling of grittiness between the fingers, as if it had been levigated with extreme care for a process in some refined art. On analysis it is almost pure clay, a silicate of alumina and the sesquioxide of iron, with a small quantity of manganese.

The weight beneath the dredge had certainly the desired effect in this case of bringing the dredge rapidly to the bottom. The stem of the "Hydra" machine had gone deep into the mud, and was bent, apparently by the weight falling upon it. The dredge had taken a deep scoop of mud, and the line had entangled itself in a coil of 20 or 30 fathoms over the second weight, showing that it had not been exposed to any current.

On the 27th we proceeded steadily on our course, and on the 28th we sounded in the morning in 2720 fathoms with No. 1 line, to which were attached a "Hydra" machine with 4-cwt. disengaging weights, a slip water-bottle, and two thermometers. At a distance of 500 fathoms from the bottom a stop-cock water-bottle was bent on to the line. The tube of the "Hydra" was filled with a red mud containing a considerably larger proportion of carbonate of lime than in the previous sounding, and a few shells of calcareous foraminifera. As the bottom presented so little difference from the former, which we had found so nearly destitute of animal life, it was thought unnecessary to spend the time and great labor necessarily involved in dredging, and we proceeded under sail, after taking a series of temperature observations :

Surface.....	22°·2 C.	80 fathoms.....	19 ·5 C.
10 fathoms.....	22 ·1	90 "	19 ·7
20 "	21 ·9	100 "	19 ·5
30 "	22 ·1	200 "	14 ·3
40 "	21 ·7	300 "	11 ·5
50 "	21 ·8	400 "	8°·7
60 "	21 ·8	500 "	6 ·5
70 "	21 ·4	600 "	5 ·2