

ly smooth and uniform clay-mud such as had been brought up in the sounding-tube, and that the greater part had been washed out in hauling up. A small fish, as yet undetermined, but with the peculiarity of having eyes so small as to be nearly microscopic, was found in one of the corners of the dredge-bag. It is very possible, however, that it was taken into the dredge on the way up. We had been struck for some time past with the singular absence of the higher forms of life. Not a bird was to be seen from morning till night. A few kittiwakes (*Larus tridactylus*) followed the ship for the first few days after we left Teneriffe, but even these had disappeared. A single petrel (*Thalassidroma pelagica*) was seen one day from one of the boats on a towing-net excursion, but we had not yet met with one of the southern sea-birds. For the last day or two some of the large sea-mammals and fishes had been visible. A large grampus (*Orca gladiator*) had been moving round the ship, and apparently keeping up with it. Some sharks hung about, seeking what they might devour, but we had not succeeded in catching any of them. Lovely dolphins (*Coryphæna hippurus*) passed, in their varying iridescent coloring, from the shadow of the ship into the sunshine, and glided about like living patches of rainbow. Flying-fish (*Exocetus volans*) became more abundant, evidently falling a prey to the dolphins, which are readily deceived by a rude imitation of one of them, a white spinning bait, when the ship is going rapidly through the water.

The following is the result of a temperature sounding at intervals of 50 fathoms from the surface to 800 :

Surface.....	23°·3 C.	450 fathoms.....	7°·1 C.
50 fathoms.....	23 ·0	500 "	5 ·8
100 "	21 ·1	550 "	5 ·2
150 "	17 ·8	600 "	5 ·0
200 "	15 ·4	650 "	4 ·6
250 "	13 ·6	700 "	4 ·6
300 "	12 ·3	800 "	4 ·2
350 "	10 ·3	2675 "	1 ·6
400 "	8 ·6		