

water, sponge-producing seas of the Philippines. It came up with scarcely any ooze and with only a small number of animal species; but among them were many very perfect specimens of the rare little sea-urchin *Salenia varispina*. It is singular that although there were a large number of hempen tangles attached to the dredge, and they seemed to have done their work well, none of the Bryozoa so characteristic of moderate depths with a bottom of globigerina ooze in the Atlantic were taken on this occasion. In the evening we made sail due north.

For the next ten days, up to the 26th, we kept a northerly course on the central ridge of the Atlantic in soundings never exceeding 2000 fathoms. The bottom was globigerina ooze, except on two occasions when the sounding-tube brought up no sample, and the station was accordingly entered "hard ground." The bottom temperature averaged about 2° C., varying two or three tenths, with differences of three or four hundred fathoms in depth. The dredge was lowered on the 19th in 1240 fathoms, but it came up empty. We made another attempt on the 21st, and on this occasion we were more successful, bringing up what we most wished, a supply of globigerina ooze for after-examination. The only organism recovered was a dead wisp of *Hyalonema* spicules caught in the tangles.

On the morning of the 27th we were close to the Island of Ascension, and as we neared the land the weather became thick and heavy all round, and there was a very heavy rain-squall, which lasted some hours. It cleared off about noon, and the dark-red cones and craters of the lower part of the island were visible to the north-eastward. We sounded in 425 fathoms, and put over the dredge, which was fairly successful, bringing up a large number of corals and sponges, and a number of echinoderms, including several examples of the ordinary form of *Echinus Flemingii*.

I was sitting writing below as we approached the land, and did not go on deck until we had cast anchor in 11 fathoms in