

at the bottom of the Atlantic is obtained from Antarctic sources. Nine important stations had been examined on our way, showing an average depth of 2500 fathoms.

Late on the evening of the 28th we observed the light on Gibbs Hill, Hamilton, sparkling brightly ahead. Hove-to for the night, and for the next two days continued sounding and dredging round the reefs. Swung ship both for magnetic and azimuth correction, after which stood in for the Narrows, got the pilot on board, and a few hours later we were alongside the jetty of the Naval Yard, where we found H. M. ships *Terror*, *Sirius*, *Minstrel*, *Fly*, and *Britomart*. Here we remained for ten days refitting and completing stores, and during this interval many scientific excursions were made about the islands. To the geologist, particularly, the examination and phenomena of the sand glacier were exceedingly interesting. It appears that the fine coral *débris* which surrounds the shore is caught at certain exposed parts of the coast by the prevailing winds, and so blown into heaps more than 30 feet in height. We were informed that on some parts of the southern shore, where deep valleys once existed, level plains are now to be seen. And this is still going on, overwhelming gardens, houses, and plantations in its way, and but few attempts appear to be made to stay its progress.

In some places where these great heaps of sand