

wound up to the highest pitch: some vowed that they saw resting on the beam of the vanishing trawl the white hand of the mermaiden for whom we had watched so long in vain; but I think it is more likely that the trawl had got bagged with the large sea-slugs which occur in some of these deep dredgings in large quantity, and have more than once burst the trawl net.

At 6.45 P.M. we made all plain sail, and shaped our course to the south-east.

We sounded and trawled on the 6th in 2275 fathoms, with a muddy bottom and a bottom temperature of $0^{\circ}7$ C., and obtained a series of temperature soundings at intervals of 100 fathoms down to 1000. The trawl came up nearly empty, containing only an ear-bone of a whale with one or two hydroid zoophytes attached to it, and a few pebbles of pumice, one having on it a large flask-shaped foraminifer or other allied rhizopod, living.

The depth on the 10th was 2050 fathoms, the bottom an impure globigerina ooze, and the bottom temperature $1^{\circ}1$ C. We were, therefore, beginning the ascent of the western flank of the great central elevation of the Atlantic. The temperature determinations had throughout the whole of this section been of the greatest interest; the lowest temperatures which we had met with previously had been in the neighborhood of Fernando Noronha, nearly under the equator ($+0^{\circ}2$ C.); we were morally certain that this cold water welled up from the Antarctic Sea in the western trough of the Atlantic, and we fully expected to intersect the line of the supply. In this, however, we were disappointed. We met with no temperature so low as the lowest temperature under the equator ($+0^{\circ}2$ C.); and it was only three years afterward, on our northward voyage, that we struck the main body of the cold indraught.

On the 11th we sounded in 1900 fathoms with a bottom of globigerina ooze and a bottom temperature of $1^{\circ}3$ C., and put over the trawl, and during its absence took a series of shallow