

was examined by Mr. Buchanan, and found to contain, like the nodules dredged in 2435 fathoms at Station XVI., 700 miles to the east of Sombrero, a large percentage of peroxide of manganese. Some other concretionary lumps were of a gray color, but all of them contained a certain proportion of manganese, and they seemed to be gradually changing into nodules of pyrolusite or wad by some process of infiltration or substitution.

On Wednesday, June 18th, we resumed our course with a fine breeze, force 5 to 7, from the south-east. In this part of our voyage we were again greatly struck with the absence of the higher forms of animal life. Not a sea-bird was to be seen, with the exception of a little flock of Mother Carey's chickens, here apparently always *Thalassidroma Wilsoni*, which kept playing round the ship on the watch for food, every now and then concentrating upon some peculiarly rich store of offal as it passed astern, and staying by it while the ship went on for a quarter of a mile, fluttering above the water and daintily touching it with their feet as they stooped and picked up the floating crumbs, and then rising and scattering in the air to overtake us and resume their watch.

The sea itself in the bright weather, usually under a light breeze, was singularly beautiful—of a splendid indigo-blue of varying shades as it passed from sunlight into shadow, flecked with curling white crests; but it was very solitary: day after day went by without a single creature—shark, porpoise, dolphin, or turtle—being visible. Some gulf-weed passed from time to time, and bunches of a species of *Fucus*, either *F. nodosus* or a very nearly allied form, evidently living and growing, and participating in the wandering and pelagic habits of *Sargassum*. The floating islands of the gulf-weed, with which we had become very familiar, as we had now nearly made the circuit of the "Sargasso Sea," are usually from a couple of feet to two or three yards in diameter, sometimes much larger: we have seen, on one or two occasions, fields several acres in ex-