

that their lobster-pots are often filled with coarse sand and shingle in depths up to 30 fathoms during heavy groundswells, and that some of the stones weigh as much as one pound.²⁸⁷ From a depth of even 600 fathoms in the North Atlantic, between the Faroe Islands and Scotland, small pebbles of volcanic and other rocks are dredged up which may have been carried by an Arctic undercurrent from the north. Mr. Murray and Captain Tizzard, however, have brought up large blocks of rounded shingle from that bank at a depth of 300 fathoms. Such detritus can hardly be due to any present action of the sea, for at these depths the force of currents at the bottom is probably too feeble to push along coarse shingle. It may be moraine-stuff dating back to the ice-sheets of the Glacial Period, its finer particles having been swept away while it is prevented from being buried under submarine mud by the scour of the currents over the bank. Blocks of stone brought up from depths of more than 2000 fathoms in the Atlantic (Lat. 49° N., Long. 43°-44° W.) have probably been dropped by icebergs from the north.²⁸⁸

Much fine sediment is visibly carried in suspension by the sea for long distances from land. The Amazon pours so much silt into the sea as to discolor it for several hundred miles. After wet weather, the sea around the shores of the British Islands is sometimes made turbid by the quantity of mud washed by rain and streams from the land. Dr. Carpenter found the bottom-waters of the Mediterranean to be everywhere permeated by an extremely fine mud, derived

²⁸⁷ J. N. Douglas, *Min. Proc. Inst. Civ. Engin.* xl. 1875, p. 103.

²⁸⁸ See charts of part of North Atlantic by Messrs. Siemens Brothers & Co., London, 1882. Some specimens shown to me by Messrs. Siemens are pieces of basalt which may have come from Greenland.