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MAURY BENEATH THE SEAS

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He who has made an attempt to penetrate the depths of the sea has the most cause to look with awe and reverence upon the genius of Matthew Fontaine Maury. With the wealth of mechanical and technical equipment placed in our hands by the amazing last half century of scientific progress, we have added but little to the knowledge of the deep seas which Maury gave us ninety years ago.

Matthew Fontaine Maury had what none of his successors in that field has since been blessed with—an insatiable desire for knowledge, a breadth of vision, and an uncanny mind in deducing from slight evidence, dragged up with crude apparatus from the ocean depths, the conditions there existing and their

causes.

To Maury and the assistants he inspired, pioneers in exploring the ocean depths covering three-quarters of our globe, we owe much that is today of practical value. But most of all we owe to Maury the fact that he pointed the way to an exploration of the deep seas. And that no man might question the value of that exploration, he promptly showed the everyday worth of his discoveries and his deductions by providing a sound basis for one of the miracles of his century—the Atlantic Cable. With soundings and with samples of

minute shell-fish brought up unabraded by erosion after ages on the bottom by new equipment developed in Maury's office, both the route for the Atlantic Cable and its safety from disturbance on the ocean floor were proved beyond a doubt, and the great project went forward to shining success.

Matthew Fontaine Maury had little to work with in exploring the ocean depths save crude twine, cannon balls for sinkers, and some quills and tallow. But behind these simple tools, which were as available to any man a thousand years before as they were to him, lay an inquiring soul and an intellect fit to stand with the scientific giants of any age. Maury pointed out to us the way to knowl-

edge of the deep seas.

Today, with instruments and apparatus far more capable than his of opening up that field, we have but moved a few halting steps beyond him. While we of this generation stand about, entangled in the coils of our own technical developments, bemoaning the fact that the last frontier has vanished from us, before our unseeing eyes lies the frontier of the deep sea, in every way a treasure house of Nature almost undeveloped by man, with the figure of Matthew Fontaine Maury beckoning us encouragingly to follow him in harvesting its yet unsuspected bounties.

