

PROF. A. AGASSIZ

Has Sailed on the Albatross for the South Seas.

VESSEL WILL LIKELY CALL HERE

Objects and Aims of one of the Most Important Scientific Expeditions.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 23.—The United States steamer Albatross sailed for the South Pacific today with a party of scientists under the direction of Professor Agassiz.

On the evening before sailing Professor Alexander Agassiz was the guest of honor at the annual banquet of the Harvard Club of San Francisco.

President Samuel Bigelow presided over the gathering in the capacity of toastmaster, and the guest of honor sat on his right.

The scientist spoke of Harvard as he first knew it forty years ago and as it was today, and regaled the gathering with some interesting reminiscences and tales that pleasantly recalled the college days of the gray and bearded members present.

The course will then be changed to the northeast, and an almost straight line of 4,000 miles will be made for San Francisco, taking in on the way the Hawaiian Islands.

Horace Davis spoke of his personal acquaintanceship with the two Agassiz—the present Professor Alexander and his distinguished father—and what they had done for Harvard.

This large party of scientific men propose to return to the United States about May 10 of next year. Their course will take them 20,000 miles, through a circuit of nearly every important group of the smaller islands which lie in the mid-Pacific Ocean between the Tropic of Capricorn and the Tropic of Cancer.

Many reasons induce the members of the coming expedition to look for results of the highest importance to scientific, popular and commercial knowledge.

The Albatross is a twin-screw steamer of something more than 1,000 tons displacement. She was constructed for the Fish Commission in 1882 at a cost of \$200,000 and was the first vessel ever specially designed for deep-sea exploration.

Another curious appliance for deep-sea work, from which important results are expected, is a deep-sea pump which will be used on this expedition for the first time.

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ception of the catch proportionately small. The great trawl which is now being constructed by the Fish Commission for use on the coming expedition of the Albatross will have a mouth 20 feet in width by 6 in height and its net will be 30 feet in length.

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The record for the greatest depth ever reached in deep-sea dredging is held by the beam trawl of the Albatross. This is three miles. The deepest spot in the ocean's bed lies down in the South Pacific Ocean, about eight hundred miles to the northeast of New Zealand.

When the Albatross leaves San Francisco she will proceed directly to Tahiti, in the Society Islands. On this trip of 3,500 miles dredging and soundings will be carried on at almost regular intervals on an almost wholly unexplored part of the ocean's bottom.

An interesting point in controversy between European and American deep-sea explorers will be settled on this voyage of the Albatross. The scientific men of the Old World have always contended that the sea is inhabited by various forms of life at all depths.

Fish Commissioner George M. Bowers and Dr. Hugh M. Smith have received the hearty approval of the President in their plans for the expedition, and it is expected that most important information of a practical nature regarding the food fishes of the Pacific waters will be obtained.

In a recent letter Professor Agassiz refers to his explorations in the Bahamas, the Bermudas, Cuba, Florida, the Fiji Islands, the Australian Great Barrier Reef, the Hawaiian Islands, the Bay of Panama, the Galapagos Archipelago and the Gulf of California, and then says:

"The expedition now proposed I consider the most important one I have undertaken since the cruise of the Blake, 1877-80. It covers an area of the Pacific which has not as yet been touched, as nothing is known of the line from San Francisco to Tahiti, Tahiti to Fiji, Ellice and Jallet and Marshall Islands to Honolulu; and most important results should be obtained with a vessel so admirably fitted for the work as the Albatross.

It is not always best to wait until it is needed before buying a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy.

WORK OF THE YEAR

Of Armstrong Industrial Association.

Officers and Committees Elected for Next Year—Collecting Hawaiian Legends and Folk Lore

Mr. Editor: We would like to give the public some idea of the work done the past year by the General S. C. Armstrong Industrial Association, which was organized when Colonel Parker was with us last year.

How well the teachers have done has been seen, in part, in the school exhibit at the High School. The agricultural work could not be exhibited; however, more of this kind of work was done than any other.

Some failures were reported because of a lack of water or suitable soil; nevertheless, the failure taught its lesson. We cannot justly describe all of the work that was done, but it is sufficient to say that the first year's results are very encouraging, and that the children have learned, among other things, that he who gets his living from the soil is among the noblest of men.

The following officers and committees were elected for the ensuing year: President, Robert Law, Kaili-uka school; vice-president Miss E. B. Snow, Chinese Girls' school; secretary, J. N. Taggard, Kaili-waena school.

At yesterday's meeting a scheme was developed for collecting Hawaiian folklore, myths, legends, etc., also for collecting written directions for the production of the island products.

Very respectfully, J. N. TAGGARD, Secretary.

Dr. Maxwell Honored.

At a recent meeting of the National Geographical Society of America, held in Washington, D. C., Dr. Walter Maxwell, of Honolulu, was made a corresponding member.

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