10-19-1854

The Chester Standard - October 19, 1854

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the children

Still further observations showed that this

ice-bearing current from the Arctic regions

encountered the head of the Gulf Stream

near the Banks of Newfoundland, and

that it was there split into two portions,

the one passing inshore between the

American coast and the Gulf Stream;

while the other plunged under and flowed

beneath the warmer surface current into

that very Gulf of Mexico, from out of

which the other current was pouring.

There was a solution of one portion

of the problem of the Gulf Stream. The

waters which pour forth to the north,

heated from the great caldron of the Gulf,

flow into it, as an under current, from

the northern regions. But the other branch

of the problem seemed by this solution to

be involved in still deeper waters. What

was the impelling force that set in motion

those two opposite currents, thus flowing

side by side, and over and under each other?

Friendship's star crown'd

The Gulf Stream is more accurately known

than any other of the ocean currents. It

emerges from the Gulf of Mexico as a well

defined river of warm water, enclosed between

banks of cold water. For hundreds of miles

the line between the blue waters of the

Stream, and the greenish waters of the sur-

rounding ocean, is as visible to the eye as

the line between the river and its banks. So

sharp is the line of separation that a vessel is

not infrequently beheld with one part in an-

other as it emerges through the Straits of

Bimini, it is thirty-two miles wide, probably

twelve or fifteen hundred feet deep, and

flows at the rate of four or five miles an hour.

Careful calculations show that it conveys

from the Golf of Mexico an amount of water

three thousand times greater than that

brought into it by the Mississippi; and it

carries away to the north a supply of heat

sufficient to keep in a fluid state a river of

molten iron as large as our great "Father of

Waters." It follows the line of the coast, at a con-

siderable distance, until it reaches Cape Hatteras,

by which time it has spread to a width of

about one hundred and eighty miles. From

this point it rapidly diffuses itself, leaving

however by successively mingling in waters

with those surrounding ocean, than by flowing

over them, as a body of all Mold flow over

the surfaces of a lake. Its shores now stretch

almost directly seaward, standing at right

angles across the Atlantic, covering the sur-

face of the sea with a warm mantle which

prolongs into the depths of the ocean.

The fact was gracefully managed, and with

the jeetlag tone which had been adopted was

mingled a line, serious, ardent sentiment,

expressed with beauty and

Maury has furnished some suggestions

in which we are confident will be found the

germ of the true theory by which will be

explained not only the Gulf Stream, but all

of the other currents of the ocean.
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