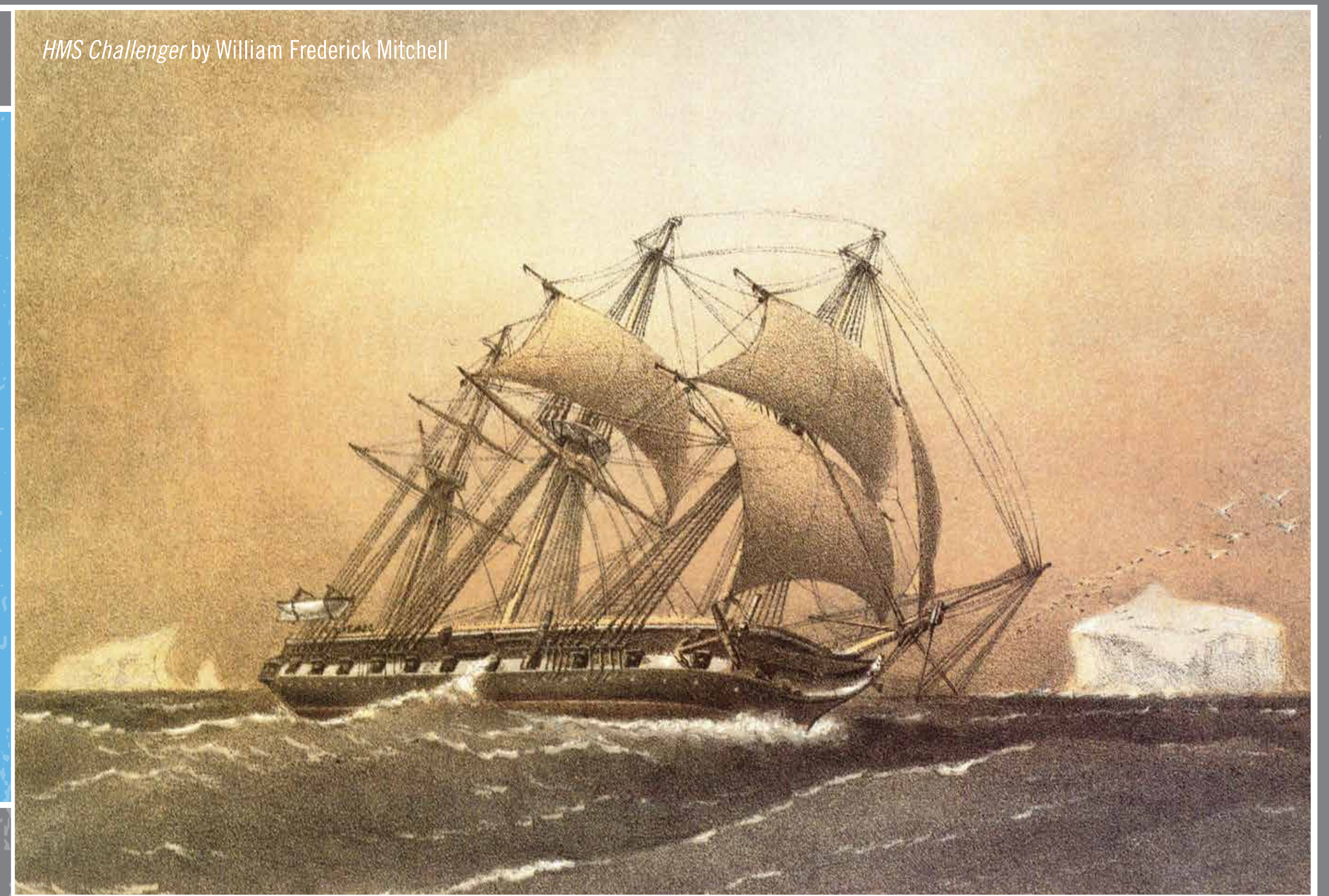


JOHN MURRAY AND HMS CHALLENGER

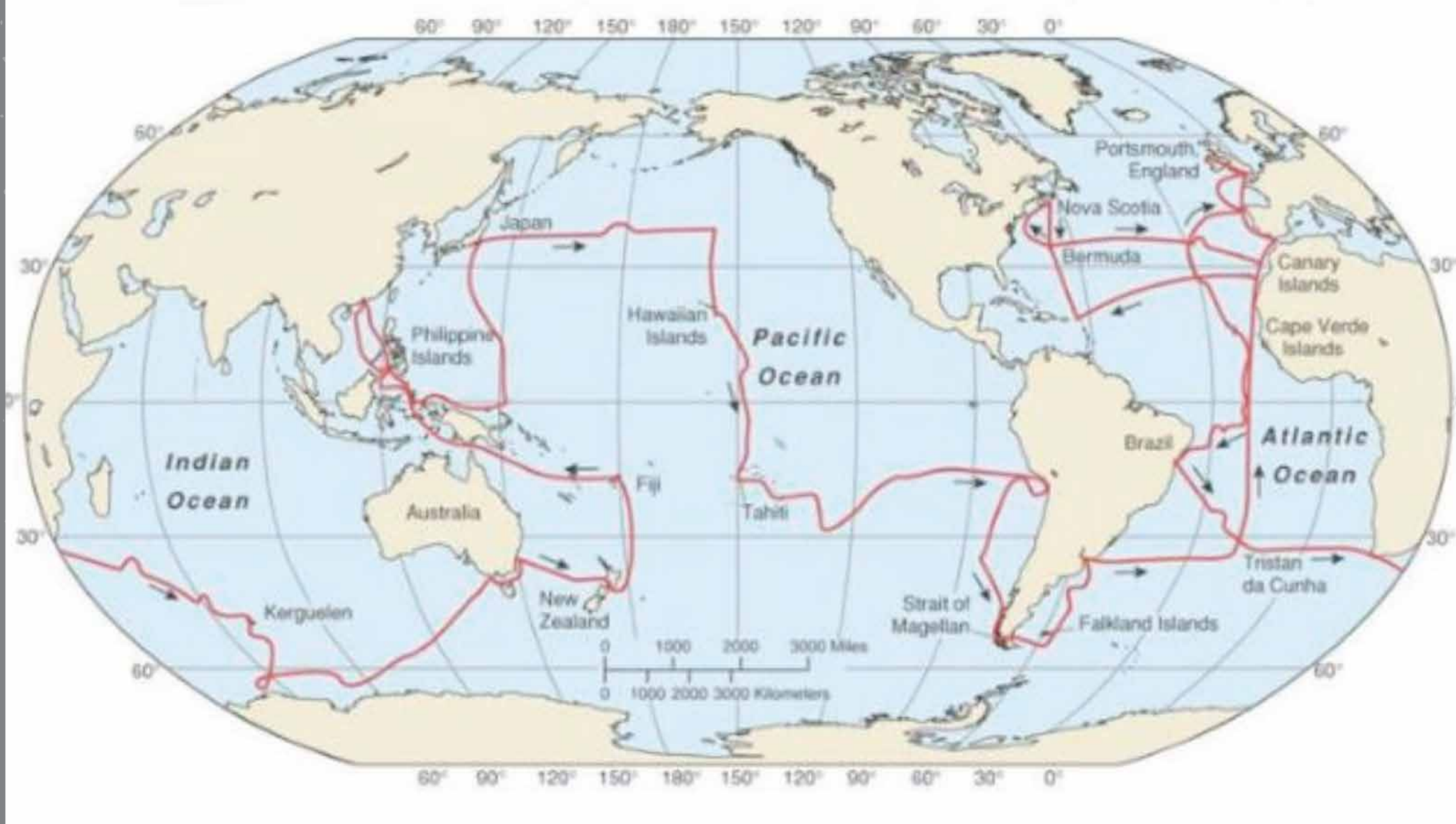
John's medical studies combined with his research experience on the whaler meant that he was an ideal candidate to assist in preparations for **the world's very first "oceanographic" expedition**. It was specifically designed to gather data on the oceans, including temperature, chemistry, currents, marine life, and the geology of the seafloor.

HMS Challenger began life as a smaller-sized warship, a 200 foot long corvette equipped with 17 guns. In the makeover 15 of the guns were removed, making room for laboratories, cabins for the scientists and storage cupboards.

HMS Challenger by William Frederick Mitchell



Challenger expedition 1872-1876



Map - from Peggy Musto presentation "Challenger Expedition 1872-1876"

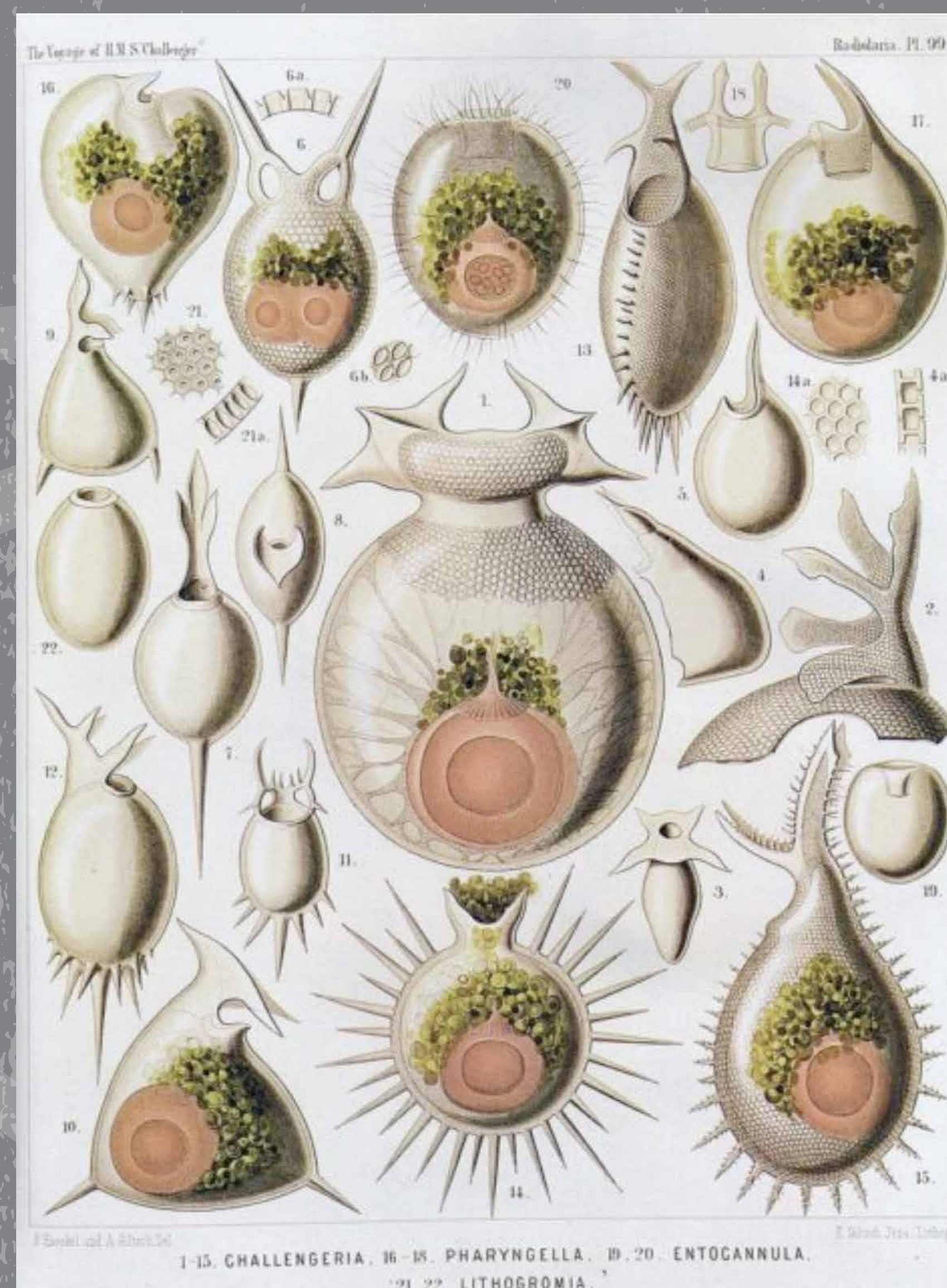
But it was between these spots, in the uncharted expanses of ocean, that the expedition's real work was done.

- The 492 deep-sea soundings **provided a temperature baseline still used today in research on climate change**.
- The current idea that the ocean floor was devoid of life was firmly disproven.
- **Darwin's theory of evolution** was given a major boost with the discovery around Australia and New Zealand of animals clearly within the evolutionary chain.
- The discovery of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge provided **new understanding about the movement of the ocean floor** and subsequently of tectonic plates.

In all of this and more, **John Murray's work and insight played a major part.**

When *Challenger* left Portsmouth in 1872 John, now 31, was on board as **a naturalist, a full-fledged member of the team of six "scientifics"**. During the next 42 months, the expedition circumnavigated the world.

Along the way *Challenger* made port in such varied countries as: Spain, Canada (Halifax), Brazil, South Africa, New Zealand, Japan, Chile, and exotic islands such as: Tristan da Cunha, the Christmas Islands, the Sandwich Islands and the Kerguelen Islands in the Antarctic Ocean.



Sea Creatures -
"Radiolaria by Ernst Haeckel"