# The Canadian Champion

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## VISITS HIS OLD HOME.

**Famous Canadian, Sir John Murray, in the Land of His Birth—Famous by Reason of His Marine Exploration.**

Visiting his old home in the land of his birth is Sir John Murray, a quiet, middle-aged gentleman unknown to the general public, and withal one of the most eminent scientists ever produced on this continent. In oceanography Sir John is acknowledged to be the supreme authority. His title to fame lies in connection with the voyage of man-o'-war Challenger, a vessel which will live in scientific annals with the Beagle, Darwin's ship. Year after the wonderful explorations accomplished by the Challenger Sir John is famous by reason of his submarine discoveries on the coasts of England and Scotland. After a long absence from Canada Sir John returned to visit his birthplace, Coburg, and the scenes of his school life at London. It was from London that he left for Edinburgh, where his aptitude as a student attracted the attention of his professor, the regius professor of zoology, and later on led to his being the immortal band of naturalists who sailed on the Challenger.

**Voyage of the Challenger.**

The voyage of the Challenger was, in many respects, the most remarkable ever undertaken for the purpose of scientific exploration. It was the result of a request to the Admiralty by a special committee of the Royal Society. It speaks little difficulty that the Society's request had its request granted and the necessary arrangements made. At the time, students of life were clinging tenaciously to belief, now enough from the scanty data then at their disposal. They supposed, for instance, that ocean life was confined to a narrow fringe on the margin of terrestrial land, and that beyond a short distance below the surface was deserted and lifeless. It was held that at a depth of a fathom plant life disappeared, and that animal life was believed to be at a few fathoms, and that at a depth of any sort was as barren as a vacuum or a furnace. About this time, however, a number of scientists reported facts which tended to contradict these theories. Their conclusions were confirmed by Prof. C. Wyeville Thomson in 1870, dredged to a depth of 2,435 fathoms and found life which it had been defined could not there exist. Strange creatures of the deep, at a depth of nearly two and a half miles, had adapted their backs a mechanism inconceivable.

**Thomson honors Murray.**

Thomson was at the time the most eminent of British men in this line of research. He was selected commander of the Challenger expedition, some reluctance, he accepting John Murray as his assistant. The volumes in which is set forth the results of the voyage are known as Wyeville Thomson's, for he had charge of his scientific work, but he speaks in the highest terms of his young assistant, and the volumes included not only his own researches independently but also the laborious and tedious work of labeling, cataloguing and arranging the countless specimens collected by the Challenger. Thus scientists and a world of philanthropists learned on Sunday, May 24th, that the Challenger had traversed 68,890 nautical miles after establishing 362 stations. Her main course from Sheerness on Dec. 21st, 1872, returned on May 24th, 1876. She had traversed 68,890 nautical miles after establishing 362 stations. Her main course was as follows: She left England was to Spain and Portugal, thence to the West Indies, the Azores, Cape de Verde Islands, coast of South America, thence to the Cape of Good Hope, Marion Islands and Kerguelen Land to Australia, thence through the Torres Straits, west to Java and Bali, thence through the Sunda and Sulu Seas to the Pacific, visiting Japan, Britain and the Sandwich Islands and to Japan, around the world and home to Britain, that Sir John Murray at London the other day to say that he had left his British colony.

**Found a New Science.**

As a result of the voyage of the Challenger he is a fellow of science to speak with implicit authority the merest tyro in the work of weeds, and the task which Murray was equally with Thomson, instrumental in doing may be gathered from the fact that it took 50 royal quarto volumes to set forth the results. This is the largest work ever issued. It contains 40 years' history of the ocean, in a simple and direct way. The volumes of physics and two volumes of botany are a summary of a work covers nearly 3,000 illustrations. In preparing the work for publication Sir Wyeville Thomson, death, when he fell begun, Prof. Murray had to assume the work.

**Modest Man.**

Sir John Murray is a man of modest, unassuming manner, and is a man of great ability. He is a man of great ability and a man of great ability. He is a man of great ability and a man of great ability. He is a man of great ability and