

CHAPTER IV.

ST. THOMAS TO BERMUDAS.

Dredging in Moderate Depths in the West Indian Seas.—New Blind Crustaceans.—Deep-sea Corals.—*Hyalonema toxeres*.—An Accident.—A Deep Sounding.—The Miller-Casella Thermometers.—Temperatures.—Arrival at Bermudas.—History of the Islands.—Their General Appearance.—“Red” and “Blue” Birds.—The Corals which form the Reefs.—The Geology of Bermudas.—General Nelson’s Description.—Æolian Rocks.—Calcareous Concretions simulating Fossils.—The Topography of the Islands.—Their Products.—Their Climate.—Their Vegetation.

APPENDIX A. — Report from Professor Abel, F.R.S., to H. E. General Lefroy, C.B., F.R.S., on the Character and Composition of Samples of Soil from Bermudas.

APPENDIX B.—Abstract of Temperature—observations taken at Bermudas from the year 1855 to the year 1873.

ON Saturday, the 15th of March, before going into the harbor of St. Thomas, a sounding was taken in 450 fathoms off the island of Sombrero. The bottom brought up by the sounding-machine was glcbigerina mud largely mixed with broken shells, chiefly those of pteropods. The dredge was put over early, and veered to 1000 fathoms. At noon it was hauled up half filled with calcareous ooze. It was again sent down, and brought up in the afternoon with a like freight. These dredgings, which we did not regard as entering into the regular work of the sections, but which were only undertaken to give us a general idea of the deep-water fauna of the West Indian province, may be taken in connection with one or two hauls made with the same object, and under the same circumstances, in water of nearly equal depths, on the 25th of March, after leaving St. Thomas. The careful examination of the zone between 300 and 1200 fathoms among the West Indian islands will undoubt-