temperature actually rises, notwithstanding the more northern latitude. The lines representing 18°, 17°, and 16° C. are depressed, each nearly 50 fathoms; and a subsequent observation (Station LVII.), about fifteen miles from Bermuda, shows that the same conditions of temperature are maintained right up to the islands.

On the 3d of April soundings were taken successively in 2475, 2250, 1820, and 950 fathoms, gradually passing up the slope of the reef. The bottom in all cases had a basis of soft, white, calcareous mud, evidently produced by the disintegration of the Bermuda reef and of the multitude of pteropod shells which sink down from the surface. At a distance of ten miles or so from the reef, the soundings are sometimes actually composed of the fragments of surface-shells, to the almost entire exclusion of the homogeneous detritus of the coral.

The next day we sounded at various depths from 780 to 120 fathoms. The fauna seemed to be, on the whole, scanty, the finely divided calcareous mud being probably unfavorable to the existence of most of the higher forms of animal life. Among the few interesting species which we met with at this station were a fine specimen of the Euryalid *Ophionereis lumbricus*, LYMAN, attached to a gorgonia; a large, handsome *Spatangus*, allied to *S. purpureus;* and some fragments of *Cœlopleurus floridanus*, A. AGASSIZ, a very singular urchin, near Cidaris in some respects, but with the spines enormously long in proportion to the body.

A pilot came on board off St. George's, and we passed slowly through the intricate and dangerous "narrows" between the reefs—the natural defenses of the northern coast of Bermudas, which make any artificial fortifications almost unnecessary—and anchored in Grassy Bay in the evening.

Bermudas, or "Somers," or, by corruption, "The Summer Islands," seems to have been discovered about the year 1503, by Juan Bermudez, a Spaniard, in the vessel *La Garza*, having on