

and drawing with it of his substance vnto a certaine depth where it congeales ; the hardest kinde of it lies under the red ground like quarries, as it were thicke slates one upon another, through which the water hath his passage, so that in such places there is scarce found any fresh water, for all or the most part of the fresh water commeth out of the sea draining through the sand, or that substance called the Rocke leaving the salt behinde, it becomes fresh."

Representative government was introduced in Bermudas so early as the year 1620, and in 1621 the Bermudas Company of London, in whom the government was at that time vested, issued a liberal charter. That charter remained in force only till 1685, when, probably on account of the importance of the islands as a military station, it was annulled by the Home Government ; and since then the governors have been appointed by the crown, and the laws of the colony have been enacted by a legislature consisting of the governor and nine members of council appointed by the crown, and thirty-six members of assembly elected by the nine parishes into which the islands are divided. Slavery appears to have existed in Bermudas from the first in a mitigated and patriarchal form. The legislative bodies of Bermudas and of Antigua were the only two among our colonies which abolished slavery without the intervention of apprenticeship. The proportion received by Bermudas of the compensation voted by Parliament was £50,584—£27 4s. 11*d.* for each of 4203 slaves. The number of the civil population in 1871 was 12,426, of whom 5030 were white and 7396 colored. The colored element in Bermudas is by no means entirely African. In the earlier days of the settlement many laborers and slaves were brought from Virginia and other parts of North America ; and one may often recognize the aquiline nose and characteristic features of the North American Indian, now, however, except in one or two families, very much masked by negro intermixture.