

Some native plants, which form a peculiar vegetation, sending out enormously long runners or roots—such as *Ipomœa pes-capræ* and *Coccoloba uvifera*, and the crab-grass, *Agrostis Virginica*, which is said to have been introduced, but which is now among the most valuable pasture-grasses on the islands—then take hold of it, and it becomes permanently fixed. The outer aspect of the sand-hill of course slopes downward toward the sea, and whenever its progress landward—its growth—has been arrested, the tendency of the incoherent mass is to travel back again by gravitation and the action of rain; accordingly, it is not unusual to be told that one of these *coulées* is gradually disappearing.

The process by which the free coral-sand is converted into limestone is sufficiently simple, and involves no great lapse of time. The sand consists almost entirely of carbonate of lime in a state of fine ultimate subdivision, owing to its having en-



FIG. 75.—Chimney of a Cottage buried by a Sand-glacier, Elbow Bay. (From photograph.)