

neath this, at a depth of about forty-five feet, there is a bed of a kind of peat, and vegetable soil containing stumps of cedar in a vertical position, and the remnants of other land vegetation, with the remains of *Helix Bermudiensis*, and of several birds; the bed of peat was ascertained by boring to lie upon the ordinary hard base-rock (Fig. 77).

Fossils, or semi-fossils, are very common throughout the islands, and they are generally such as we find associated with sand-hills. One or two species of *Helix*, showing many varieties, are by far the most abundant; the shells can be picked out of the soft rock in some places in thousands, as at Mount Langton, and along the road-side in Somerset Island.

It is difficult to imagine, where there has been so much change of level, that elevations, at all events of a local character, should not have occurred from time to time; and yet we could not satisfy ourselves that we had detected any absolute proof of this. The only case in which we felt an approach to confidence was a rock about ten feet above high-water mark on Boaz Island, which seemed to contain serpula borings in position. In various places, however, a peculiar kind of calcareous tubing, which forms round roots of bushes and grass, presents itself under such various aspects that we may have mistaken this for *serpula*. In many spots the rock far above high water contains marine shells; but these seem to be all such as might have been blown along with the sand into their elevated position, or have been carried there by other means. *Turbo pica*, for example, one of the commonest, is too heavy to be carried by the wind, but it is constantly transported far inland and to any height by the "soldier crab."

In the collection of Mr. Bartram, a very enthusiastic amateur naturalist living near St. George's, I found a small worn and rounded fossil, which seemed to be the cup of a crinoid allied to *Holopus*. Mr. Bartram kindly gave me the specimen, and we looked most carefully in all subsequent dredgings near