

able, and we constantly plucked and smelled it without its producing any unpleasant effect. The tide was with us when we regained the Flats Bridge, and the galley shot down the rapid like an arrow, the beds of scarlet sponges and the great lazy trepangs showing perfectly clearly on the bottom at a fathom depth.

Every here and there throughout the islands there are groups of bodies of very peculiar form projecting from the surface of the limestone, where it has been weathered. These have usually been regarded as fossil palmetto stumps, the roots of trees which have been overwhelmed with sand, and whose organic

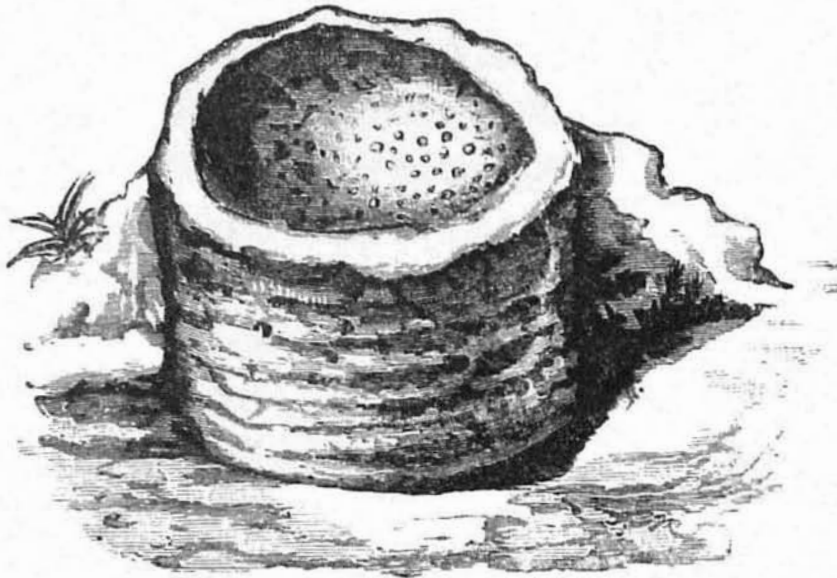


FIG. 79.—Calcareous Concretion simulating a Fossil Palm-stem, Boaz Island, Bermudas.

matter has been entirely removed and replaced by carbonate of lime. Fig. 79 represents one of the most characteristic of these from a group on the side of the road in Boaz Island. It is a cylinder, a foot in diameter and six inches or so high; the upper surface forms a shallow depression an inch deep surrounded by a raised border; the bottom of the cup is even, and pitted over with small depressions like the marks of rain-drops on sand; the walls of the cylinder are rough, with transverse ridges and grooves singularly like the lines of insertion of endogenous leaves. The cylinder seems to end a few inches below the surface of the limestone in a rounded boss, and all over this there