might we not catch it, but he said he would prefer that we should not. The governor of a convict establishment is in a very delicate position, and bears a heavy responsibility, not unaccompanied with serious risk, and it is, of course, difficult to judge his conduct in such a case; but it is not easy to see why his determination should have been exerted against our throwing light upon the natural history of the island only. Captain Nares and a party visited St. Michael's Mount and "Rat" and "Platform" Islands. Mr. Moseley collected a great many plants, and Mr. Buchanan made some observations on the geological structure of the islands, which I quote from his notes:

"The highest island, St. Michael's Mount, forms one of the prominent peaks which are characteristic of the group. It is very steep and formed entirely of phonolite, which occurs columnar at the base and massive toward the top; on the western side, where we landed, the columns are inclined to the horizon at an angle of about 30°. Their transverse section looks nearly square, the corners being, however, considerably rounded off. The columns are for the most part slender, and their mass is of a dirty green color. In this the glassy feldspar crystals are arranged with great regularity, with their broadest faces in a plane perpendicular to the length of the column. The steep sides of the Mount are covered with loose blocks of massive phonolite, fallen down from above and retained in position on a very steep incline by the stems of most luxuriant creeping plants. On the weathered sides of these blocks the glassy feldspar crystals, and also the crystals of hornblende, though in a less degree, project sometimes to the extent of a quarter of an inch, so much more decomposable is the crypto-crystalline matrix than the crystals occurring porphyritically in it. This rock possesses in an eminent degree the characteristic property from which it derives its name: when struck with a hammer, it literally rings like a bell.

"The rock is cleft from top to bottom in two planes nearly