

found on the surface, and were generally covered with small Cirripeds, whilst in some instances they were completely enveloped by species of *Acineta* and *Podophrya*.

The character of the deposits in this section presented considerable variety. With the exception of the hard ground already referred to, composed of manganese and coral, all the deposits in depths less than 2500 fathoms contained more than 50 per cent. of carbonate of lime. For these the names Globigerina and Pteropod oozes have been adopted, the latter being confined to two deposits from the depths of 1420 and 450 fathoms on the western side of the section, in which occurred very many Pteropod and Heteropod shells, in addition to pelagic and other Foraminifera, and in which the proportion of carbonate of lime was the greatest, being 80 to 84 per cent. Only a few fragments of Pteropods were found in the Globigerina ooze, from depths ranging between 1890 and 2500 fathoms, the carbonate of lime being made up chiefly of the dead shells of pelagic Foraminifera. In depths greater than 2500 fathoms, the quantity of lime decreased as the depth increased, and below 3000 fathoms there were only traces of carbonate of lime in the deposit.

Siliceous organisms, such as spicules of Sponges, Radiolarians, and Diatoms, were not abundant; generally they did not appear to make up more than 1 or 2 per cent. of the whole deposit, with the exception of the two deposits at 1420 and 450 fathoms, above referred to, where the proportion rises to about 6 per cent.

The mineral particles, which were mostly of volcanic origin, seldom exceeded 0.15 mm. in diameter, and consisted of felspars, hornblende, augite, magnetite, glassy fragments, and palagonite. In the deposits from the eastern portion of the section there were numerous small rounded particles of quartz covered with ologist, which would appear to be mostly wind-borne particles, carried by the Harmattan and other winds from the coast of Africa.<sup>1</sup> The Red Clays from the greater depths were almost entirely composed of argillaceous matter and fine mineral particles not exceeding 0.05 mm. in diameter. In the dredging on the 7th March in 2435 fathoms, there were several round compact manganese nodules, pieces of pumice several millimetres in diameter, and three or four Sharks' teeth coated with peroxide of manganese.

#### ST. THOMAS, VIRGIN ISLANDS.

As the ship steamed towards the harbour at St. Thomas, Frigate Birds soared high overhead, with their long tail feathers stretched widely out. A number of brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus fuscus*) were flying at a moderate height near the shore, and every now and then dashing down with closed wings into the water on their prey like their close allies the Gannets. Often several of the birds dashed down together at the same instant.

The island of St. Thomas itself, as well as the outlying islets, is covered with a wild bush

<sup>1</sup> See Darwin, *Journal of Researches during the Voyage of H.M.S. "Beagle,"* p. 5, ed. 1879.