

of the rock of which the higher parts of the island consist, cemented together by calcareous matter derived from the corals and calcareous sand. This rock, which was hard and compact, contained embedded in it plenty of the various corals from the beach and large Turbo shells (*T. pica*), with their nacre quite fresh in lustre, and their bright greenish colour unimpaired.

Large examples of these Turbo shells, as much as two inches in diameter at the base, are in St. Thomas carried up far inland by terrestrial Hermit-crabs. I saw a large number of them amongst the bush at an elevation of 1,000 feet, some of them with the crabs in them, many empty. These large heavy sea shells, occurring in abundance at great heights, puzzled geologists until it was found that they were carried up by the crabs.

On the shore at Little Saba Island grew a number of plants of *Guilandina bonduc*. This plant bears a pod covered with prickles which contains nearly spherical beans of about the size of a hazel nut, which have a perfectly smooth, as it were, enamelled surface, and are flinty hard. These seeds float, and are carried by ocean currents to distant shores, and are in Tristan da Cunha and Bermuda known as "Sea-beans," and supposed to grow at the bottom of the sea. Don Jose de Canto showed me one found in the Azores.

The coral reefs of St. Thomas are remarkable for the large size and luxuriant growth of certain corals upon them, especially two species of the genus madrepora named, from their resemblance to antlers, *Madrepora cervicornis* and *M. alcornis*. I saw, at Little Saba Island, a Brain-coral which measured four feet in diameter at the base and three feet in height.

A list of the flowering plants of St. Thomas, and other information, is given in "A Historical Account of St. Thomas, W. I." By J. P. Knox. New York, Charles Scribner, 1852.

Bermuda, April 5th to 21st, and May 27th to June 12th, 1873.
—Bermuda is entirely a coral island, that is to say, the complete mass of the island now above water, and that below sea level, as far at least as excavations which have been made have extended, has been brought together by the agency of lime-secreting animals and plants, aided by the winds and waves, and alterations in the height of the sea-bed. It is the most distant coral island from the equator, lying about 9° of latitude north of the Tropic of Cancer, in about the same latitude as Madeira, which island has, however, no coral reefs. It is distant from Cape Hatteras, the nearest point of the American coast, about 600 miles.