

Bermuda consists of a series of islands, some very small indeed, others several miles in length, there being, it is said, an island for every day in the year. The islands are disposed in an irregular semicircle, and the larger ones of the chain are narrow and elongate in form. This semicircle or rather semiellipse is completed below water, or made into an entire atoll shape by a series of coral reefs, as may be seen by a glance at the chart. A few narrow and winding passages lead in through the reefs to the harbours of St. George's, Ireland Island, and Hamilton the capital town. The highest point is only about 300 feet above the level of the sea.

The islands are almost entirely composed of blown calcareous sand, more or less consolidated into hard rock. In several places, and especially at Tuckers-town and Elbow Bay, there exist considerable tracts covered with modern sand dunes, some of which are encroaching inland upon cultivated ground, and have overwhelmed at Elbow Bay a cottage, the chimney of which only is now to be seen above the sand. The constant encroachment of the dunes is prevented by the growth upon them of several binding plants, amongst which a hard prickly grass (*Cenchrus*), with long, deeply-penetrating root fibres, is the most efficient, assisted by the trailing *Ipomoea pes capræ*. When these binding plants are artificially removed, the sand at once begins to shift, and the burying of the house and the present encroachment at Elbow Bay are said to have originated from the cutting through of some ancient sand-hills for military purposes.

The sand is entirely calcareous, and dazzling white when seen in masses. When examined closely, in small quantities, it is seen to consist of various-sized particles of broken shells. By gathering samples from the shores where the material of which the sand is formed is first thrown up, and selecting portions where eddies of the wind have left the heavier particles together, a sand full of large fragments of shell, and containing even many whole shells of smaller species, may be obtained, and from the examination of these an accurate conclusion may be arrived at as to the main constituents of the finer, more comminuted sand, which is driven inland by the wind, blown up into the dunes, and from which the whole island above water has been formed.

The sand may be seen to be made up in by far its greater part of the shells of Mollusca. Species of *Tellina*, *Cardium*, and *Arca* contribute most largely to compose the mass, together with large quantities of pink-coloured fragments derived from a *Spondylus*, which is common about the islands. A few Gasteropodous shells contribute fragments, and a con-