

that the most externally placed animals have a great advantage in procuring food over those placed behind them or in the centre of the area.

The scenery of Bermuda is in some respects not unlike that of northern lake districts, for the numerous small islands which are dotted over the sounds and land-locked sheets of water are covered with vegetation down to the water's edge. The dark colour of the juniper trees (*Juniperus barbadensis*), called in the island "cedar," the prevailing foliage, not unlike that of pines in appearance, gives the landscape a northern aspect, and on cloudy days the island, as viewed from the sea, looks cold and bleak. Only the extreme lowness of all the land is characteristic and distinctive. Next conspicuous to the juniper as a general feature in the vegetation, is probably the oleander, which having been introduced, flourishes everywhere. A large portion of the uncultivated land is covered with a dense growth of another introduced plant, *Lantana camera*, a most troublesome weed.

The most refreshing and beautiful vegetation in Bermuda is that growing in the marshes and caves. The marshes or peat bogs lie in the inland hollows between two ranges of hills. These bogs are covered with a tall luxuriant growth of ferns, especially two species of *Osmunda* (*O. cinnamomea* and *O. regalis*). Some ferns are restricted to particular marshes. In some *Acrostichum aureum* grows densely to a height of from 4 to 5 feet. Together with the ferns grow the juniper which thrives in the marshes, and a Palmetto, which gives a pleasing variety to the foliage.

The peat of these marshes is mainly composed of the *débris* of the rhizomes of the ferns and roots and bases of the sedges, especially of one very large species of *Cladium*. A bog moss grows in the marshes, but is not abundant enough to take much share in the peat formation. The peat burns well, and has very much the appearance of ordinary home peat. The stems of junipers are occasionally found in it in good preservation, and of larger size than any now growing on the island. The formation of peat at sea level in so warm a climate seems very unusual. Darwin has dwelt on the peculiar conditions of climate necessary to the formation of peat. In South America and the Falkland Islands, as here, the peat is formed by the slow decomposition of plants other than mosses.*

I have referred to the falling in of the roofs of caves. At the mouths of nearly all the caves are hollows with steep rocky sides, produced by the falling in of former extensions of the

* Darwin, "Journal of Researches." 2nd Ed. London, J. Murray, 1845. p. 287.