

are here brought with those only occurring inland, is of great interest from a geological point of view ; it recalls at once to the mind such mixtures of marine and terrestrial animal remains as those occurring in geological deposits, such as the Stonesfield beds.

Here is a narrow strip of sea-water, twenty miles distant from the open sea ; on a sandy shallow flat, close to its head, are to be seen, basking in the sun, numbers of Sting-rays (*Trygon*), a kind of skate provided with a sharp saw-edged bony weapon (the sting), at the base of its tail. All over these flats, and throughout the whole stretch of the creek, shoals of Grey Mulletts are to be met with ; numerous other marine fish inhabit the creek, some growing to 150 lbs. in weight, and often caught weighing as much as 60 or 80 lbs. A *Diodon* or Trunk-fish is amongst the fishes. Porpoises chase the mullet right up to the commencement of the sand-flat.

At the shores of the creek the rocks are covered with masses of excellent oysters and mussels, and other shell-bearing mollusks are abundant, whilst a small crab is to be found in numbers in every crevice.

On the other hand, the water is overhung by numerous species of forest trees, by orchids and ferns, and other vegetation of all kinds ; mangroves grow only in the shallow bays. The gum-trees lean over the water in which swim Trygons and mulletts, just as willows hang over a pond full of carp. One could sit on a gum-tree and fish for sharks. The sandy bottom is full of branches and stems of trees, and is covered in patches here and there by their leaves.

Insects constantly fall on the water, and are devoured by the mulletts. Land birds of all kinds fly to and fro across the creek, and when wounded may easily get drowned in it. Wallabies swim across occasionally, and may add their bones to the *débris* at the bottom.

Hence here is being formed a sandy deposit, in which may be found Cetacean, Marsupial, bird, fish, and insect remains, together with land and sea-shells, and fragments of a vast land flora ; yet how restricted is the area occupied by this deposit, and how easily might surviving fragments of such a record be missed by a future geological explorer ! The area occupied by the deposit will be sinuous and ramified like that of an ancient river-bed.

The inlet being so extremely long and so narrow, although the rise of the tide is two feet or more at the head of the creek, the interchange of water with the ocean is very small ; the water in the upper parts of the creek is merely forced back to a higher level by the tide below at flood-tide, and similarly