

their eagle-like flight, far above the cloud of other birds beneath.

On the island were lying about the shells of numerous turtles which had died there. In one place there was quite a heap of these at a spot where there was a sort of miniature gully, bounded by a perpendicular wall of rock about two feet in height. It appeared as if the turtles had crawled up from the sea-shore to spawn, and being stopped by this small cliff, had been unable to turn round or go backwards, and had died there. A Locust (*Acridium*) was very common amongst the grass on the island, and a large Earwig (*Forficula*) under the stones.

Cape York, Australia, Sept. 1st to Sept. 8th, 1874.—The "Challenger" reached Somerset, Cape York, the northernmost point of Australia, on the evening of September 1st. The coast leading up from the south towards Somerset, presents a succession of sandy bays, which looked glaring and hot as we passed them in the distance. Behind these sands the country rises in a succession of low hills, and is covered with a thick vegetation. Somerset lies in a narrow channel, formed between the small island of Albany and the mainland. The island, and also parts of the mainland bordering the sea, at the entrance to the channel from the south, are bare of trees, excepting "Screw pines," and covered only with a grass, in the dry season withered into hay.

These open grass-covered spaces are rendered most remarkable objects, because they are covered in all directions with the nests of Termites (White Ants). These nests are great conical structures of a brick red colour, often as much as ten feet in height. Standing up all over the open country, they give the scene almost the appearance of a pottery district in miniature, beset with kiln chimneys.

The tide runs in a regular race through the channel between Albany Island and Somerset, and we drifted rapidly with it to an anchorage opposite the small bay in which Somerset lies. On the one hand is a small strip of Mangrove swamp; in the centre, a long beach of sand; on the other hand, the commencement of a range of low cliffs.

Behind the shore of the Bay the land rises steeply, and is covered with wood, except where cleared around two conspicuous sets of wooden buildings, the one the residence of the magistrate, the other the barracks of the water police.

Three other wooden houses, one on the beach used as a store, the other two nearly in ruins, and only temporarily inhabited, make up with these the whole settlement of Somerset. There were only five or six permanent White