

bushes. On the shore were inclosures built by the Moros as fish traps, to retain fish as the tide receded. In the shallow water contained in these traps were a large number of *Medusæ* of the genus *Polydonia*, all lying on the tops of their umbrellas, with their tentacles directed upwards in full glare of the sun. They looked, thus posed, like a lot of Sea-Anemones, and I took them for such at first. They appeared perfectly lively, and from time to time contracted their umbrellas. It appeared almost as if they had assumed their position voluntarily, and were waiting for food in the same manner as *Actinias*.*

Alcyonarians (social Polyyps, distinguished by having eight tentacles), are extraordinarily abundant about the beach of Santa Cruz Major. The reef rocks are covered with the soft spongy forms of *Alcyonarians*; they form extensive beds, which are soft and boggy to tread on in wading. Amongst thee grows a stony coral, which is likewise *Alcyonarian*, as I found to my astonishment on examining its minute structure. It forms thick erect plate-like masses which are of a chocolate colour when living. The coral is remarkable because its hard calcareous skeleton is of a bright blue colour instead of white, as is usually the case. The coral is hence named *Heliopora cærulea*. It is, as far as is known, the only surviving representative of a large number of extinct forms of Palæozoic age, which are familiar in the fossil condition. It is nearly allied to the well-known Red Coral of commerce.†

Again, another interesting Alcyonarian is abundant, together with those just described, namely, the red Organ-Coral (*Tubipora musica*). There were cartloads of this coral, dead and dried, lying on the beach, which was entirely composed of various coral *débris*. The "Organ-Coral" was not to be found living in shallow water on the reefs, but living specimens were dredged from a depth of ten fathoms.

Basilan Island, Feb. 4th and 5th, 1875.—The ship went for a night to Port Isabella in Basilan Island, lying west of Zamboanga, to coal at the Spanish Government stores there. The

* H. N. Moseley, "On the Structure and Relations of the Alcyonarian *Heliopora Cærulea*," etc. Phil. Trans. R. Soc., Vol. clxvi., Pt. 1.

† *Polydonia frondosa* has been observed in great numbers at the Tortugas islands by A. Agassiz. They occur there in from three to six feet of water, the disc resting on the bottom, the tentacles turned upwards. The disc pulsates slowly while they are at rest. When kept in confinement they creep slowly over the ground by means of their tentacles, and sometimes raise themselves edgeways against the sides of the dishes, remaining stationary for a considerable time. The peculiar habits of *Polydonia* were noticed by Mertens in a species named by Brandt *P. Mertensii* in 1838, and found at the Carolines.