

into which the floating timber was almost everywhere gathered. Amongst them were the usual littoral seeds, those of two species of *Pandanus*, and of a Puzzle-seed (*Xylocarpus*), fruits of a *Barringtonia* and of *Ipomœa pes capræ*.

But besides these fruits of littoral plants, there were seeds of 40 or 50 species of more inland plants. Very small seeds were as abundant as large ones, the surface scum being full of them, so that they could be scooped up in quantities with a fine net. With the seeds occurred one or two flowers, or parts of them.

I observed an entire absence of leaves, excepting those of the Palm, on the midribs of which some of the pinnæ were still present. The leaves evidently drop first to the bottom, whilst vegetable drift is floating from a shore. Thus, as the *débris* sinks in the sea-water a deposit abounding in leaves, but with few fruits and little or no wood, will be formed near shore, whilst the wood and fruits will sink to the bottom farther off land.

Much of the wood was floating suspended vertically in the water, and most curiously, logs and short branch pieces thus floating, often occurred in separate groups, apart from the horizontally floating timber. The sunken ends of the wood were not weighted by any attached masses of soil or other load of any kind. Possibly the water penetrates certain kinds of wood more easily in one direction with regard to its growth than the other. Hence one end becomes water-logged before the other; I could arrive at no other explanation of the circumstance.

It is evident that a wide area of the sea off the mouth of the Ambernoh River is thus constantly covered with drift-wood, for the floating wood is inhabited by various animals, which seem to belong to it, as it were. The fruits and wood were covered with the eggs of a Gasteropod Mollusc, and with a Hydroid, and the interstices were filled with Radiolarians washed into them and gathered in masses, just as Diatoms in the Antarctic seas are gathered together in the honeycombed ice. Two species of Crabs inhabit the logs in abundance, and a small *Dendrocole* Planarian swarms all over the drift matter and on the living crabs also. A *Lepas* was common on the logs.

Enormous quantities of small fish swarmed under the drift-wood, and troops of Dolphins (*Coryphæna*) and small Sharks (*Carcharias*), three or four feet long, were seen feeding on them, dashing in amongst the logs, splashing the water, and showing above the surface, as they darted on their prey. The older wood was bored by a *Pholas*.