

masses are formed, and then become a combination formed by the union of the marine deposits with the fresh water. Such are the banks of Guadeloupe, which contain marine and terrestrial shells and human skeletons. Such, also, is the quarry near Messina, described by Saussure, where the sandstone is produced by the sands cast up by the sea, and which there consolidate.

#### LITOPHYTES.

In the torrid zone, where litophytes are numerous in species and propagate rapidly, their stony columns are formed into rocks, reefs, &c.; and, reaching to the level of the waves, block up the entrance of the ports, and are the destructive foes of navigation. The sea casting sand and slime on the top of these rocks, frequently raises their surface above the proper level, and thus generates islands which soon exult in rich vegetation. (1)

#### INCRUSTATION.

It is possible, also, that in certain places shell-fish leave their testaceous coverings, which, amalgamated with slime more or less concreted, or with some other cements, form extensive deposits, or a kind of shelly reef; but we have no evidence that the sea at present can incrust these shells with a paste as solid as marble, sand-stone, and even the compact limestone in which we see the shells of our layers em-

(1) See Forster's 'Observations on the South Sea.'