

frigate *Severn*, lost in 1793 near "Silver Bay," off Turk's Islands, is covered with growing corals. It lies (according to the journal of Mr. J. A. Whipple, by whom specimens were collected in 1857) in about four fathoms of water. One of the specimens was a mass of the species *Orbicella annularis*, shaped somewhat like a hat; it is attached to the top of a bell and spread outward on all sides. The thickness of the coral at the centre is about eight inches, and the breadth fifteen. Another specimen consisted of an olive jar and glass decanters cemented together by a mass, of like size, of the same species of coral. The interval since the wrecking of the vessel, to 1857, was sixty-four years, and if the corals commenced their growth immediately after the wreck, the increase of this species of coral is very slow.

The journal of Mr. Whipple, in the library of the same society, contains the records of his observations on the spot, and the efforts made to remove the corals in order to examine the wreck. The following are a few extracts made from it by Prof. Verrill :—

"April 21, 1857.—Moored our boat over the remains of a large wreck, . . its depth being from three to ten fathoms. I made the first descent in the armour. I found the bottom very uneven and covered with the remains of a man-of-war, what appeared to be the bow lying in a gulch, with the shanks of three large anchors, the palm of only one of which projected out of the coral rock.

"April 22.—Made a second descent and commenced examining in six fathoms of water on what appeared to be midships. All astern of this is thick branching coral (*Madrepora*), and it must have made very fast, the branches being twelve inches in diameter and sixteen feet in height. To look among it from the bottom reminds one of a thick forest of a heavy growth of timber. . . . This branched coral appears to grow where there is but very little iron, as I could see no guns or shot around its roots. Commenced examining the cannon with hammer and chisel. . . . Near these cannon, which must have been near the forward part of the ship, I commenced to work on a clear