

*Florida Reefs and Keys.*—This region of coral formations has been described by Prof. M. Tuomey (*American Journal of Science*, vol. xi., 1851), Professor Agassiz (Coast Survey Reports for 1851 and 1866, and Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., i., 363), and Captain E. B. Hunt (*Am. J. Sci.*, xxxv., 1863). A few paragraphs from the papers of the first two of these observers are here cited. The map at the close of the volume illustrating this Florida reef-region is from the Report on Deep-Sea Corals of L. F. de Pourtales, published in the Illustrated Catalogue of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy in 1871. First, from Professor Tuomey:—

“Key West is about six miles in length and two miles wide, the highest point being fifteen or twenty feet above mean tide. The deepest wells are about fifteen feet in depth; the water in them, which is slightly brackish, ebbs and flows with the tide.” “The rock perforated in these wells, like that everywhere else exposed, is sufficiently soft to yield readily to the axe, with the exception of a thin crust of a few inches on the surface, which is quite hard, especially where it is exposed alternately to the action of the tides and atmosphere. This indurated crust may be seen on the road between the town and the barracks, and around the salt works. Below this crust the rock is quite soft, and in some other respects resembles the Alabama white limestone; but the most striking difference next to that of organic remains, consists in the distinctly oolitic structure of the Florida limestone. This structure is seen where one would be led to expect it, in the fine grained seams. A few hundred yards from the hospital a quarry has been opened where the rock may be examined. The organic remains consist of broken shells and water-worn fragments of corals, which, both in species and state of preservation, resemble those on the shores of the island. Except in degree of hardness, the rock does not differ from the calcareous sands thrown up by the waves on the shore in the vicinity; and the conditions presented by the loose moving sands are not favourable to the habits of molluscous animals, nor are fossil shells very abundant in the limestone of the island. Oblique