

or false stratification is everywhere seen in the rock, the inclination of the planes differing very little from the slope of the shore up which the waves push dead shells, pieces of coral, &c. After a breeze, coarse materials are found strewing the beach, a light wind leaves a finer deposit, and in the succeeding calm the sea appears milky from fine calcareous matter suspended in the water; this is deposited in the form of free, impalpable mud, which invests marine plants and other objects, to which it adheres with great tenacity, and becomes a source of annoyance to the collectors of Algæ. All these alternations of fine and coarse materials may be observed in the limestone. [The rock corresponds to the beach sand-rock.]

“Along the south beach, the sand is thrown up by the waves to an elevation nearly equal to that of the highest point of the island, and during the gale of Oct. 1841 the greater part of it was submerged, so that, at first sight, it might appear that the whole island was the result of sand thrown up at such times. But although I observed no beds in the limestone that prove, like those of our Tertiary, that the animals, whose remains they contain, lived and died on the spot, yet in its structure it shows the result of long-continued, steady wave-work that cannot be referred to any other cause.

“On Key West I found in the rocks no beds of coral retaining their original position, although large fragments are scattered through the mass.

“Some of the small Keys, such as the Mangrove Keys, are the result of gradual deposition of sedimentary matter, and many of those interspersed among the larger islands have not yet reached the level of high water, but are nevertheless covered by a dense growth of this curious tree. It would be difficult to imagine a plant better adapted to island-making than the mangrove. Its long pendulous seeds fall into the shallow water, stick in the soft mud, and take root; the bud proceeding from the opposite extremity, soon shoots up above water and sends down branches almost perpendicularly into the mud; these take root and produce other trees, and so on. Besides these, lateral shoots are given off, and, at a distance of