

Keys incircling, to the seaward, the ship-channel already mentioned. This is properly the region of living corals.

“Throughout its whole range it does not reach the surface of the sea, except in a few points where it comes almost within the level of low-water mark, giving rise to heavy breakers, such as Carysfort, Alligator Reef, Tennessee Reef, and a few other shoals of less extent, but perhaps not less dangerous. In a few localities, fragments of dead coral, and coral sand begin to accumulate upon the edge of the reef, forming small Keys, which vary in form and position according to the influence of gales blowing from different directions—sometimes in the direction of the Gulf Stream from south-west to north-east, but more frequently in the opposite direction, the prevailing winds blowing from the north-east. Such are Sombrero Key, Love Key, the Sambos and Sand Key. Here and there are isolated coral boulders, which present projecting masses above water, such as the Dry Rocks west of Sand Key, Pelican Reef, east of it, with many others more isolated. Though continuous, the outer reef is, however, not so uniform as not to present many broad passages over its crest, dividing it, as it were, into many submarine elongated hillocks, similar in form to the main Keys, but not rising above water, and in which the depressions alluded to correspond to the channels intersecting the Keys. The broad passages leading into the ship-channel, which may be available as entrances into the safe anchorage within the reef, are chiefly the inlet in front of Key Largo, and to the west of Carysfort reef, with nine feet of water; a passage between French reef and Pickle reef, with ten feet; another between Conch reef and Crocus reef, also with ten feet; another between Crocus reef and Alligator reef, with two fathoms; another between Alligator reef and Tennessee reef, with two fathoms and a half; and a sixth to the west of Tennessee reef varying in depth from two-and-a-half to three fathoms.”

Through the labours of Mr. de Pourtales, in connection with the soundings by the Coast Survey, interesting facts have been brought to light respecting the sea between the