

vegetable matter. This scanty soil is fertile, if well used. When uncleared, it is covered with bush and forest trees. There are also sandy tracts termed 'pine-barrens,' where the bush suddenly disappears and the palmettos become fewer in number, though enough remain to exhibit an intermixture of pines and palms, respectively typical of the northern and southern floras. The lowest portions of the flat grounds frequently contain small brackish water or salt lakes. In the chalk-marsh of Andros Island, however, there is a freshwater lake, with three streams as its outlets; and it appears that there is no other freshwater lake or stream in the Bahamas. . . .

. . . There are large caverns in Long Cay and Rum Cay; and probably caverns are as numerous in the Bahama Islands as in the Bermudas; but so few extensive excavations have been made, that this cannot be positively affirmed. . . .

One of the most striking objects in the topography of the Bahamas is the very deep submarine valley forming the gulf known as 'the Tongue of the Ocean,' which runs into the Great Bahama Bank from its northern end. The colour of the water around the islands is usually that of the *aqua-marine* variety of beryl; but the water of the Tongue of the Ocean has the deep blue colour of oceanic depths.

"The author describes a coral-reef as consisting of masses of numerous species of *Madrepora*, *Astræa*, *Dædalea*, *Oculina*, bases and axes of *Gorgonia*, *Millepora*, *Nullipora*, *Corallinæ*, &c. &c., growing confusedly together without any other apparent order than that of accidental succession and accretion, both laterally and vertically. These are at times aided or even superseded by *Serpulæ*, &c., as seen in the serpuline reefs. . . .

"Captain Nelson points out a few of the localities that exhibit most clearly the character, source, and mode of aggregation of the materials of the ordinary Bahama rock, such as is formed above the sea-level; at the same time referring to the illustrative specimens in the Bahama collection. For instance: the south side of Silver Cay and the beach extending westward from Nassau afford rolled blocks, pebbles, and sand derived from the massive corals, mixed with remains of turtles, fish,