

The stratification is somewhat irregular, the beds slanting toward the sea at an angle of about seven degrees. Upon this foundation immense masses of *Strombus*, dead shells, and corals have been thrown in banks, evidently the beginning of deposits similar to those already consolidated below; but there is this difference in their formation, namely, that while the foundation rock is slightly inclined, and never rises above the level of high water, the accumulation of loose materials above water-level forms steeper banks, varying from fifteen to twenty and thirty degrees. In some localities broken shells prevail; in others coarse and fine sand; and the ridges thus formed, evidently by the action of high waves, rise to about twelve and fifteen feet. This is evidently the foundation for the accumulation of finer sand driven by the wind over these ridges, and forming high sand-dunes, held together by a variety of plants, among which a trailing vine (*Batatas littoralis*), various grasses and shrubs are the most conspicuous. These dunes rise to about twenty feet; on their lee side and almost to their summits grow a little palmetto. The sand of the dunes is still loose, but here and there shows a tendency to incrustation at the surface. The slope of these dunes is rather steep, sometimes over thirty degrees, and steeper to the seaward than on the landward side.

“In the interior of Salt Key there is a pool of intensely salt water, the tint of which is pinkish or flesh-coloured, owing to the accumulation of a small alga. When agitated by the wind, this pool is edged all around by foam of the purest white, arising from the frothing of the viscous water. Along the edge the accumulation of this microscopic plant forms large cakes, not unlike decaying meat, and of a very offensive odour. The foundation rock of this Key is exactly like what Gressly described as the ‘*facies corallien*’ of the Jurassic formation; while the deposit in deep water, consisting chiefly of muddy lime particles, answers to his ‘*facies vaseux*.’

“Double-Headed Shot Key is a long, crescent-shaped ridge of rounded knolls, not unlike ‘*roches moutonnées*,’ at intervals interrupted by breaks, so that the whole looks like a dismantled