

kindness of his Excellency Major-General Lefroy, C.B., F.R.S., the present Governor, been placed in possession of still more satisfactory information. During the past two years extensive submarine blastings have taken place inside an artificial harbour situated at the western extremity of the islands, for the purpose of forming a bed of sufficient depth for the reception of the 'Great Bermuda Dock,' which attracted so much attention off Woolwich when launched some three or four years ago. The excavations extended to a depth of fifty-two feet below low-water mark. At forty-six feet occurred a layer of red earth two feet in thickness, containing remains of cedar trees, which layer rested upon a bed of compact calcareous sandstone. Here we have the first satisfactory evidence of the submergence of an extensive deposit of soil once upon the surface, and that to the depth of forty-eight feet below the present low-water level, which consequently grants an equal elevation above it in former times. Now, on carefully surveying the Bermuda chart, we find that an elevation of forty-eight feet will bring the whole space which intervenes between the present land and the barrier reef, now covered with water, above the water level. This attained, what more is required to prove the former extent of the island group before the present submergence to the present barrier reef? But having clearly ascertained beyond doubt that the Bermudas were once forty-eight feet higher than at present, will any one be bold enough to deny them a greater elevation? I have reason to believe that they once extended in a south-westerly direction—not only out to the reef, but to a greater distance. There are some rocky ledges about twenty to twenty-five miles from land in that direction, known as 'The Flatts,' lying in about thirty-five to forty fathoms water; and, singularly enough, in the very oldest maps of the Atlantic, copies of which I have consulted in the British Museum, 'The False Bermudas' are put down about this position. Is it unreasonable to suppose that a low-lying group of islets did actually exist here in former times? Again, in Smith's 'History of Virginia,' which gives an excellent account of the islands in the early part of the seventeenth