

beaches made up of calcareous sand, that it appears quite a novel feature when one meets again with siliceous sand, to which only we are accustomed in Europe. The sandy beach slopes down, to end abruptly on a nearly horizontal mud flat, bare at low water, which is mainly calcareous, and in fact a shore platform reef, but with few living corals on it. At low water, during spring tides, blocks of dead massive corals, such as *Astræidæ*, are seen to compose the verge of these mud flats, and it is from the detritus of these that the mud is formed. Amongst these blocks are but few living corals, a species of *Euphyllia*, small *Astræas*, and cup or mushroom-shaped *Turbinarias*.

There is a considerable variety of species of seaweeds on the flats. There are also several forms of Sea-Grasses: a species of *Halophila*, the large hairy *Enhalus*, and a *Thalassia* grow all together, and spread in abundance over the mud, which is matted with their roots in many places.

The channel between Somerset and Albany Island is shallow, being nowhere more than 14 fathoms in depth. The dredge here brought up a rare species of *Trigonia*, and the "Lancelet," *Amphioxus lanceolatus*, which seems to have an extremely wide range in distribution. The fauna on the whole was very like that of Port Jackson.

Cape York is a sort of emporium of savage weapons and ornaments. Pearl shell-gathering vessels ("Pearl-shellers" as they are called) come to Somerset with crews which they have picked up at all the islands in the neighbourhood, from New Guinea, and from all over the Pacific, and they bring weapons and ornaments from all these places with them. Moreover, the Murray Islanders visit the port in their canoes, and bring bows and arrows, drums, and such things for barter.

The water police stationed at Somerset deal in these curiosities, buying them up and selling them to passengers in the passing steamers, or to other visitors. Hence all kinds of savage weapons have found their way into English collections, with the label "Cape York," and the Northern Australians have got credit for having learnt the use of the bow-and-arrow. I believe that no Australian natives use the bow at all.

Weapons from very remote places find their way to Cape York, and thus no doubt the first specimens of Admiralty Island javelins reached English museums. Accurate determination of locality is of course essential to the interest of savage weapons. Staff-Surgeon Maclean, of the "Challenger," had a large New Guinea drum of the Crocodile form thrust upon his acceptance, as a fee for visiting a patient on board one of the "Pearl-shellers"; he gave it to me.