

of like reefs in the Pacific, with certain peculiarities depending upon the circumstances that it is the coral island farthest from the equator, almost on the limit of the region of reef-building corals. Accordingly, some of the great reef-building genera, such as *Madrepora*, *Cladocora*, and *Astrangia*, which are common even in the West Indies, where the coral fauna is scanty, are absent.

The water over the reefs is extremely clear, and by using a water-glass—a square bucket with the bottom of plate-glass, just lowered so far as to get rid of the ripple and reflections on the surface—every detail can be made out of the economy of the reefs, and that of their inhabitants. The reefs and ledges are of all sizes, and they are separated from one another by channels from a yard to a quarter of a mile in width, floored with white coral sand, the *débris* of the coral worn down by the action of the waves, mixed with dead shells. The reefs project abruptly above the level of the floors of these passages to the height of six to ten feet. The surface of the reef is covered with massive, branching, and feathery things of very many kinds, occupying it as closely and as irregularly as the various weeds do a fallow-field. First we have the growing corals themselves, which may represent the dockens and the thistles, or rather a mass of beautiful marigolds and carnations, and daisies and gazanias, which have been thrown over the hedge in clearing a luxuriant garden, and have taken root and gone on flowering. Most of the Bermudas corals, such as *Oculina diffusa*, *Symphylia dipsacea*, *Astræa radians*, etc., are like sea-anemones or groups of sea-anemones in every shade of purple, orange, or green. The base or stock of the coral is dead, and forms part of the reef; but each of the living branches is tipped with its sea-anemone, and the stars of plates by which its cups are supported are the earthy skeleton of the mesenteric plates which hang the stomach of the sea-anemone in its body-cavity. In most cases the bodies of these sea-anemones, with their ranges