

mudas would be a colony of any value except as a military station. In this point of view, however, it is of an importance perhaps second only to Malta. Judging from General Lefroy's careful statistics, Bermudas can not be regarded as an essentially unhealthy place, or as one possessing a climate unfavorable to the life of Europeans. The death-rate among the white population is about twenty-two in a thousand—nearly the same as the general death-rate of England. The mean of the death-rate among the troops in Bengal for the five years up to 1869 was 23·8 in a thousand, in Bermudas 16·1, in Malta 15·9, and in Canada—an exceptionally healthy station—6·9. During the last thirty years Bermudas has suffered from four epidemics of yellow fever, and these, with one exception—that of 1856—told severely on the troops; but, setting aside that terrible scourge, it must be regarded as one of the healthiest of our less healthy stations. A good deal can be done, doubtless, to improve the sanitary condition of the town and of the military establishments; but the root of the evil is in the porous nature of the rock, preventing a full and purifying supply of running water, and rendering any thing like effective sewerage extremely difficult.

There is little live stock on the islands. Cattle and sheep do not thrive well, probably mainly owing to the want of a plentiful supply of good water. Butcher-meat is almost all imported from America. Horses are not very numerous, and only tolerably good. There are a few mules and asses.

The greatest extent and diversity of land is in Long Island, between Hamilton and the shore of Harrington Sound. The country is undulating and well wooded, with here and there extensive brackish water marshes cumbered with a luxuriant vegetation of palmettos, mangroves, junipers, and ferns, including the common bracken *Pteris aquilina*, *Osmunda regalis* and *O. cinnamomea*, and *Acrostichum aureum*, often seven or eight feet high (Fig. 86). It is intersected by good