## JONES-ON THE VEGETATION OF THE BERMUDAS.

ABEL

## MANNING.

No.	1.	Alumina 13.604.
		Sesqui-Ox. of Iron 12.310.
No.	2.	Alumina 7.368.
		Sesqui-Ox. of Iron 9.964.
No.	3.	Alumina
		Sesqui-Ox. of Iron

superficial besquirox. of from the first 20.010. Is the chief Now the presence of nearly 30 per cent. of oxide of iron in the brough the soil of an island so small and remote from any continent naturally from recent perplexed us, as no clue could be gained as to its probable origin; inpact lime nor was it until the recent deep sea explorations of the "Challenandy eart<sup>1</sup>, ger," that light was thrown upon the question. In "Nature" rds, finally (vol. 8 p. 30) we find that on approaching the West Indian the growth Islands, more particularly in the deeper soundings, a peculiar "red or in some clay" gradually assuming a darker tint until it becomes chocolate ther lands, in colour, was met with; and that this red clay was found the red earth, greater part of the distance from St. Thomas to the Bermudas; and

This red moreover, it is stated that this red clay of the deep sea proved on d composi analysis by Mr. Buchanan, chemist to the expedition, to be "almost pecially the pure clay, silicate of alumina, and the sesqui-oxide of iron with a a chocolat small quantity of manganese." This analysis tends to convince us ossessing ; that the deep chocolate coloured red clay of the islands found in the as in 1859 lower levels, and from high water mark some distance into the sea. of oxide o originally came from the ocean floor, and that when by volcanic earth," for agency the Bermuda column was raised from the depths of the sea, we submit its summit, most probably broken in outline, appeared above the St. Thoma surface covered with this red mud, which in the course of ages has the resul but slightly changed its composition. and yet possesses sufficient hrough the evidence to prove its identity with that now lying contiguous to the the present base of the Bermuda column. Further remarks, however, on this analysis a subject are unnecessary in a botanical paper, which is only intended nples from the describe the geological character of the islands as connected with their vegetation.

AS.

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interesting, lways been 239