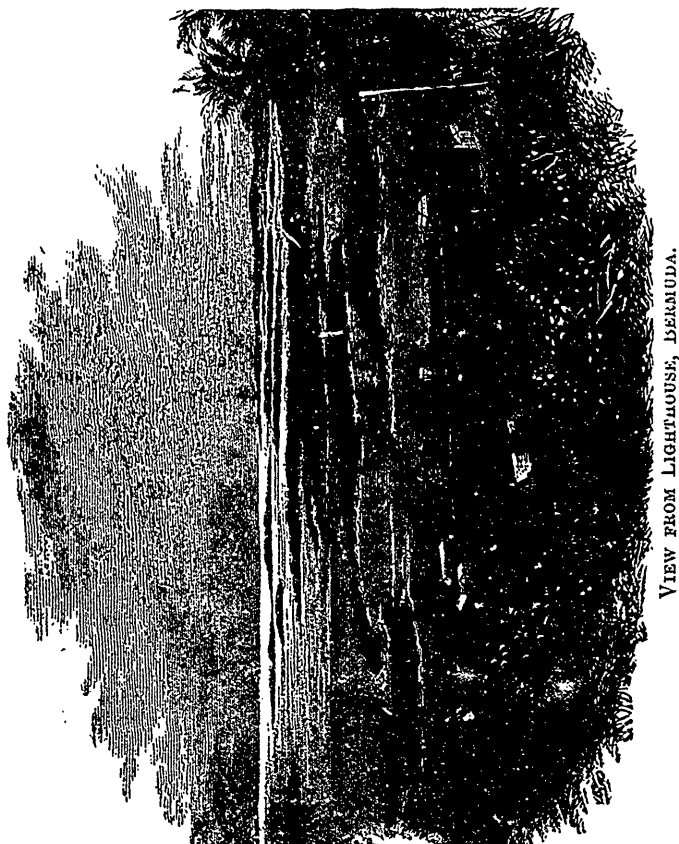


stations were fixed on at which it was decided to make careful observations as to depth, temperature, and nature of the bottom. These stoppages were about 100 miles apart, and each day, when the weather permitted, soundings and dredgings took place. On the 26th February, being about 1,600 miles from Sombrero Island, we sounded in 3,150 fathoms. This was the greatest depth



VIEW FROM LIGHTHOUSE, BERMUDA.

as yet met with, the material obtained from the bottom being quite new to science. For several days after, the dredge continued to bring up a dark chocolate or red clay, scarcely containing a trace of organic matter, and entirely devoid of animal life. The analysis of this red deposit proved it to be almost a pure clay. Although it has been proved that animal life is possible at all depths, it has been found, after reaching, say, 1,000 fathoms, that its abundance greatly diminishes.