

raised are, they above the ocean surface, that the very highest point of land only reaches two hundred and fifty feet.

Their origin was doubtless owing to the upheaval of a portion of the ocean bed to within a few feet of the surface, and the consequent formation of land was probably a more rapid process than persons would imagine.

The Gulf Stream, that 'river of the ocean,' to which the British Isles and the contiguous portions of the European continent owe their pleasant temperate climate, flows between the Bermudas and the eastern coast of the United States; trending to the north-east as it reaches the latitude of New York; thus afford'ng the ocean to the southward, protection from the cold winds and waves which course along in a southerly direction from the frozen north during the winter months. On the eastern edge of this heated concourse of waters which circle around from south to north-east, snugly lie the Bermudas; while within this semi-circular space, vast fields of a sea weed known to naturalists as *Sargassum bacciferum* intermingle with driftwood, seeds of trees and plants, and abundance of other vegetable matter bearing upon its surface, or within its tangled masses, myriads of mollusks, crustaceans, and other invertebrate forms, which float hither and thither as the winds direct, while thousands of fishes frequent these aquatic preserves to feast upon the various forms.