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### ISLANDS BUILT BY THE SEA

(By Aubrey Fullerton)

One of the most beautiful, and at the same time one of the strangest, parts of America is the group of islands known as the Bermudas, six hundred miles out in the Atlantic from the nearest shore. The beauties of Bermuda have been admired by hosts of Canadians who have visited that southern colony of our own empire, and its genial skies and leisured life have made many friends. But back of all the beauty is the geological formation of the islands, and it is that which makes them strange. How that little group of islands came to be, out in the Atlantic, and how it was built up from beneath the surface of the ocean, is one of the marvels of a wonderful world.

The Bermudas are frequently spoken of as coral islands. That is partly, but not wholly correct. They have been built up by the ocean and ocean life, but only in part by the curious marine animals that make coral. The whole process is wonderful, therefore, in more ways than one.

A space of only twenty miles in length and six miles in width is occupied by the group of islands. They stand upon what is believed to be the top of a submarine mountain, where the elevation of the ocean bed rises very near to the surface; and is one very possible theory is that they are an the summit of a hidden volcano. Away back in the unknown past this submarine elevation was raised high enough to catch the drift of the winds on the ocean surface, and millions of tiny shells were drifted in and deposited around and upon the top of it. The busy life of the sea contributed of its debris—barnacles, mussels, corallines—and thus was built up in the course of ages, chiefly by the action of the wind, a thick deposit that packed hard and close until it became solid limestone.

Then over the limestone was spread a layer of coral. Bermuda is the farthest north in the world that coral is found, and the kind it produces is not as rich and beautiful as that of the Mediterranean or other eastern seas. But now it has contributed to the making of geography is shown here very interestingly and wonderfully.

Coral is the hard skeletons of various minute organisms that live in the sea. As we see it, it is chiefly carbonate of lime, which came originally from the sea water and was deposited by secretion in the tissues of these little animals, which are known in

scientific terms as polyps. It was once supposed that coral was of vegetable origin, but when the discovery was made that it came from animal, not plant life, the wonder of it all was greatly increased. There are many different kinds of polyps, but those that form coral are known chiefly by a zoological name that means "flower animals." That is exactly what they are. Fastened to the sides of rocks under water, they have every appearance of flowers, in a great variety of shapes and weirdly beautiful colors. Sometimes they are called sea-anemones, but that is only one variety and not a coral-forming one. These beautiful things are not flowers, however, but living animals. What looks like the stalk of the flower is really a cylinder of flesh, and the many fine leaves and waving tops of the blossom itself are tentacles. There are sometimes as many as two hundred of these tentacles on a single organism, and with them it gathers in its food from the water and conveys it to its mouth, which opens into a kind of stomach-sac in the fleshy cylinder that looks so much like a flower-stalk.

This strange life goes on below the surface for a long time. The flower-animals are remarkably long-lived, but at last their day is done and their skeletons are left upon the rocks as coral reefs. An accumulation of that wonderfully formed substance during thousands of years has, together with the winds, helped to build up the Bermuda Islands, gradually widening and lengthening the surface originally thrust through the water from the submerged mountain top.

Around the islands are great reefs, showing white through the clear, warm water, and always spoken of as coral reefs. They are not wholly coral, however, for on boring through one strikes the limestone that seems to have been laid first. All along the shores, too, one finds rocks more or less overlaid with coral, but of wind-swept limestone formation at their heart.

On some of the islands are great quarries of this limestone, which has been acted upon by the air and sun until chemically changed into a soft marble. It cuts easily, but when taken out and further exposed to the open air hardens so that it makes an excellent building material. While, therefore, it is not quite correct to say that the people of Bermuda live in "coral houses" it is a fact that their houses are chiefly made of a material that came originally from the sea and was thrown up by forces of nature, and by other natural forces

converted into stone. In some places this stone assumes strange forms. There are caves as wonderful, though not as large as the Mammoth Cave of Kentucky; natural arches that were cut on generous proportions, and miles of scenery along the shores where winds and waves have heaved figures from the rocks.

Bermuda is beautiful from any and every point of view, and one could enjoy it without giving a thought to its geology. But a still greater appreciation of it and of the wonder of God's world as a whole comes with a knowledge of how it was built up from the sea; how the winds helped to lay its superstructure, and how the curious little flower animals added their share in their own wonderful way.

### OTTAWA LETTER

Mr. Editor,—

Once more it becomes my privilege as well as pleasure, to show that the weekly family letter from home, "The Monitor," arrives regularly and is perused with the same degree of pleasure as ever. Indeed, I could not do without it. It is very pleasing to me, and to all Nova Scotians, to learn how much the Province as a whole is doing to help the cause of right in this world struggle for right and freedom. The number of her gallant sons who have volunteered for the front, the excellent work of the Red Cross people, the number of contributions of Machine Guns from various places, and in some instances individual gifts by some, (for instance Clarence Jamieson, M. P., of Digby, although a poor man as far as this world's goods are concerned), certainly is worthy of the highest praise. It has always been so. Nova Scotia is always ready to do her share in any patriotic cause in the interest of our great and mighty empire, and blessings have generally followed all our patriotic efforts. One thing which is much to be regretted, is the terrible exposures which have been made in buying horses for the cavalry. It caused a blush of shame to come to every right-thinking Nova Scotian here in our city, and it is just and right that the crooks be exposed. But really it reflects upon the fair name of our province. It seems the more despicable when the money freely voted by our parliament and the tax payers only too glad to have them vote the money to help carry on the war, should in some instances be stolen by dishonest persons, shorn of the spirit of true patriotism. "The God of Mammon," and "The itching palm" will ever exist.

August with us was cold and rainy, indeed, the most rain of any August since 1873. September so far has been very warm. Indeed, we are really having July heat.

It is pleasing to learn the crops have been generally good throughout Nova Scotia. I sincerely hope that a zoological name will prove a good one also. Surely all crops that can be spared from home consumption will have a ready market in the old country.

Quite a ripple of excitement took place here over the money market in New York; but happily that boggy has passed away, when the bankers of New York announced that they would sooner have England's notes than her gold; that millions of notes, they were satisfied, would be redeemed.

Rev. Mr. McDougall of Chester, was in our village Thursday and Friday looking over the Baptist field.

Miss Annie Bushman, who has been spending her vacation in Lowell, Mass., returned on Monday last.

Lester Smith and wife of Lowell, Mass., have been visiting Mrs. Smith's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Covert, for the past two weeks.

Quite a number of this place visited Halifax during the exhibition. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rawding and family took in the Friday excursion, while Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Gates and Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Gates went by car, Mr. L. R. Gates driving his own machine.

## Middleton

C. A. Potter spent Sunday at home. A. M. Parsons of Halifax spent the week-end at home.

Mr. Troop Cummings has joined the Royal Bank staff.

Miss Anna Parsons is the guest of her uncle, Mr. W. F. C. Parsons.

His many friends are pleased to see Mr. M. P. Marshall out again.

Miss Roop of Springfield was the guest of her brother, C. N. Roop of the Commerce Bank.

Miss Agnes McGuire who has been visiting Mrs. W. G. Parsons, left on Monday for Hantsport.

Mrs. Robie Tufts of Wolfville is the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. Smith of Margareville.

Miss Lena Goldsmith spent Sunday at Annapolis Royal. She was accompanied by Miss Edith Potter.

Prof. H. Lindsay, who has spent the past three months in the Valley, returned to his home in Houlton, Maine, last Monday.

Miss Jennie Wolfe, who has spent the past three weeks with her cousin, Mrs. A. D. Doucet, returned to her home last Wednesday.

Those who returned from Halifax last week were: Dr. and Mrs. Durling, J. H. Potter and wife, T. Buckler and wife, B. B. Harris and wife, J. W. Burke and R. Palmeter, Mr. Fred Shafner and wife.

Mrs. Daniel Feindel, widow of the late Daniel Feindel, who was for many years proprietor of the American House, died on Thursday last after a lingering illness. The burial took place Saturday afternoon in Pine Grove Cemetery. One son, W. C. Feindel of this town survives. To him we extend our sincere sympathy.

On Tuesday of last week Middleton lost a prominent and highly respected citizen in the death of Harry E. Reed. He had been in failing health for over a year and during the last few months in a critical condition. But notwithstanding the fact, the news of his death came as a great shock to his many friends. Mr. Reed was born at Port George 52 years ago this last Saturday. For the last fourteen years he held the position of postmaster at Middleton, which position no one could have more worthily held. He is survived by a widow and three sons. They are, Max in the Army Medical Service in France, and Muir and Glynn at home. Three brothers also mourn their loss. The funeral service which was held on Friday afternoon at 2.30 at Holy Trinity Church was conducted by Rector Morris, and the officers of Ionic Lodge A. F. and A. M. Interment took place in Pine Grove Cemetery. To the bereaved family we extend our deepest sympathy.

### NICTAUX FALLS

Sept. 20

Miss Hazel Varner is in Lunenburg for a few weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Boyd of Boston, are guests of Mrs. J. F. Martin.

Mrs. Arthur Barteaux of Littleton, Mass., is spending a few weeks at her old home, Robert Nixon's.

Stanley Cress and James Varner both have threshing machines, and seem to get plenty of work.

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### FALKLAND RIDGE

Sept. 18

Miss Helen Mason has taken charge of the Cherryfield school for this term. Mr. Frank Marshall, who spent the summer in Halifax, returned home the 10th.

Miss Ruth Swallow returned Friday from Windsor where she has been visiting friends.

Mr. Cyrus Whyntoe and daughter spent the week-end guests of Mrs. J. McMullen.

G. Whalen of New Germany was in this place on Tuesday attending to telephone work.

Mrs. Major Roop and two children of Kentville, were the guests of Miss A. Roop this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Levy and baby of Middleton, spent the week-end with relatives in this place.

Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Marshall, who have been attending the exhibition at Halifax returned the 10th.

Mrs. Sarah J. Lohnes of New Germany, who has been visiting her cousin, Mrs. Robert Stoddart, returned home on Thursday, 16th.

### MELVERN SQUARE

Sept. 20

Mrs. Whitman Plumb of Middleton spent Sabbath with her mother, Mrs. Sophronia Pierce.

Mr. and Mrs. B. Hatt were favored by a visit from the stork quite recently. Congratulations.

Col. Potter of Springhill, was a guest at the home of Colonel and Mrs. E. F. McNeil for a few days last week.

Mr. Willard Ward of Boston, visited his mother, Mrs. Caroline Ward, during the last week, returning to the city on Saturday last.

Mr. Eugene Masters of Boston, was calling on friends in this vicinity one day last week, all of whom were pleased to see him looking so well.

Rumor says there is to be another wedding in Melvern in the not distant future. Surely "the world do move" even in our own quiet little village.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Goucher of Boston, and Miss Lilla Goucher of Digby, were in Melvern last week attending the wedding of their sister, Lavinia.

Mrs. Percy Demmonds and two children left by auto for Newport, Hants County, on Monday last, where they will visit friends during the week. They were accompanied by Mrs. Demmonds' parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Phinney, and her brother, Dr. Phinney, who motored to Halifax.

Little Miss Florence Power of Kingston, entertained a lively party of her friends on her birthday last week, at the home of her grandparents, Colonel and Mrs. McNeil, of Melvern Square. Tea was served on the lawn, the birthday cake (surrounded by good things) being the chief attraction, the small people enjoying it immensely. An auto ride toward evening ended a very pleasant afternoon for several tired, but very happy children.

The home of Mrs. Ella Goucher was the scene of a very pretty wedding on Wednesday morning last, when her daughter, Lavinia, was married to Mr. Coleman of Halifax, the ceremony being performed on the lawn by the Rev. Mr. Wheeler. The bride is the youngest daughter of the late Inglis P. Goucher, and her many friends wish her a long life of wedded happiness. Wedding bells, and a display of bunting helped to remind the prosaic people of quiet and uneventful Melvern that weddings are not out of fashion.

On Thursday of last week an auto party from here, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Outhit, Mrs. Charles I. Van Buskirk, and Miss Mary Phinney, motored to Kentville, where they spent a very enjoyable day, the guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Outhit of that town. During the fine afternoon the ladies of the party, accompanied by their hostess, visited the Experimental Farm and were simply delighted by the beautiful display of autumn flowers, etc., on the Farm, carrying away with them the favorable impression that Kentville is certainly a beautiful little spot—especially in its gorgeous autumn garb.

### INGLISVILLE

Sept. 20

Wedding bells in the near future.

Miss Muriel Beals is attending the Ladies Seminary at Wolfville.

Mr. Scott of River Hebert, spent Sunday the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Rowter.

Mr. and Mrs. Fowler and Miss Ethel Burgess of Bridgetown, visited Mrs. Taylor and Geo. Whitman last week.

Mr. and Mrs. James Durling and Miss Gladys Durling, visited their daughter, Mrs. Milledge Beals, recently.

A number from this place are employed at Auburn picking cranberries which are very plentiful, and help is scarce.

Mr. Gordon Stalling, who has been in Boston a number of years, is spending a few weeks at Mr. Sydney Bayers'.

Mrs. Saville Moore of Brockton, accompanied by Mrs. Dunbrack, are visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. Whitman.

Saturday evening an ice cream social was held and the sum of \$17.42 was realized for repairs on the Baptist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Best and Mrs. Rowter spent several days at Wilnot at the home of their brother, Milledge Best, who is very ill.

Mr. Milledge Beals of East Inglisville is the owner of a steer calf that has not split hoofs, and if worked will be required to be shod like a horse.

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