

in a "squall," as they call it, is to hasten to the nearest shelter, whatever that may be, or in less time than it takes to tell it the "unfortunate" will be drenched as completely as if he had been blown into the bay and just crawled out.

One of these squalls occurs about every few weeks; and on the first sign of a storm, if we were on Front street, the shopkeepers invariably offered us seats, and politely invited us to remain until the rain ceased. "*Cela va sans dire.*" As we were captives that was merely a "*façon de parler.*" The little tornado, though fierce, is of short duration; and in about twenty or thirty minutes Nature, like a wilful child, smiles through her tears and soon looks as lovely and serene as usual. Excuse this nonsense. I could have made it much more concise by quoting the words of Holy Scripture: "There appeared a cloud like a man's footprint; the Heavens darkened and there were clouds and wind and a great fall of rain." (I. Kings, xvii.) This verse describes fairly a squall in Bermuda.

We thought it better to visit the public buildings of Hamilton and places in the vicinity before going out of town to explore the other places of interest in the Bermudas.

I will now tell you a little of the geology of these islands. The usual building stone is soft, and it can be sawn into blocks as wood is sawn. It resembles the white stone of France, but is not as durable as the latter. The formation of these lands for the most part is derived from broken-up shells, corals and nullipores, etc., presenting every state from the most friable material to the compact limestone.

The Royal Engineers' quarries contain, however, excellent, hard, durable

stone suitable for foundations, walks, etc.

I should think that an earthquake was the cause of the present state of these islands—perhaps the earthquake of 1801. From soundings taken recently around Bermuda it is proved to be a peak rising abruptly from the abyssal depth of 1,820 fathoms, while at a distance of eighty miles its base rests upon the ocean floor at the great depth of 3,875 fathoms; so that if the formation stood above water it would appear as a mountain over 23,000 feet in height.

It has been proved, in fact, that Bermuda was at one time, if not a mountain, yet elevated greatly above the surface of the water.

Experiments made in 1870 by submarine blastings show that at a depth of 42 feet caves full of stalactites and congealed water resembling cornelian were discovered, and also layers of red earth two feet thick, similar to that forming the common soil of the islands, and mixed with the remains of cedar trees.

It has also been proved that Bermuda was formerly 24 miles by 12, extending to the reefs; though now, with islands and rocky islets (altogether 300 may be counted), the whole lies in a space of 23 miles by 3, and so slightly raised above the ocean surface the highest point of land only reaches 250 feet above the level of the water.

The white stone of Bermuda will not hold water, being porous; and the inhabitants, by using bricks and cement, make excellent cisterns and provide extensive "water-sheds," as they are called, to catch rain-water.

"The clouds consign their treasures to the fields,  
And, softly shaking on the dimpled pool  
Preclusive drops, let all their moisture flow  
In large effusion o'er the freshened world."