

growth. Observations which I have made from time to time have shown me that oysters grow as rapidly at Saint Jerome's Creek as at any place in the bay, and that they are exceptionally "fat" and "large in the flesh" early in the season, and that they are possibly on that account more prolific than the oysters from the open waters, which get less food than those in the waters of this creek, where the choicest food of the oyster is to a large extent held in by the partially land locked condition prevailing, while this food is generated much more rapidly in such places on account of the more effective action of the sun's rays in warming the shallow confined waters.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 17, 1884.

127.—ON THE OCCURRENCE OF CORALS ON THE GRAND BANKS.

By Capt. J. W. COLLINS.

Relative to the occurrence of corals on the slopes of the outer fishing-banks, I beg to say that the place of greatest abundance—of the *Primnoa reseda* more particularly—is on the eastern slope of Banquereau, in from 150 to 200 fathoms or more, and latitude $44^{\circ} 28'$ N. This "spot," which is several miles in extent—the latitude given marks about its center—is covered to such an extent with a coral growth that it seldom happens that trawl-lines set on it are all recovered. The fishermen have learned to avoid the place somewhat, and they have given it the name of "The Stone Fence." Stones of considerable size (as large as the fishing lines will lift) are not infrequently pulled up, and it is possible that a proper investigation of this locality might result in securing some rocks containing interesting fossils.

On what is called the "Middle Prong" of Banquereau, in $44^{\circ} 13'$ north latitude and $58^{\circ} 02'$ west longitude, in from 250 to 350 fathoms of water, I found considerable many corals in July, 1879, and among others several specimens of the gold-banded coral, the latter being more plentiful than I have seen it elsewhere. This place is small, however, not more than three-fourths of a mile in diameter, and would probably be somewhat difficult to find, unless the weather was fine and clear.

Referring to the last-mentioned locality, I find the following in my journal, under date of July 30, 1879, the vessel then being anchored in 205 fathoms, latitude $44^{\circ} 14'$ north, longitude $58^{\circ} 03'$ west: "Four of our trawls were on the 'Spot,' which bears about southeast by east from the vessel, and is about two-thirds of a mile distant, to its nearest edge. It is about three-fourths of a mile in diameter; the bottom, 'catchy,' having a growth of corals of various kinds, including the following varieties: Gold-band coral (*Keratoisis ornata*), great tree coral (*Pavogorgia*), bush coral (*Acanella normani*), and tree coral (*Primnoa reseda*)."

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 6, 1884.