

**THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
OF BALTIMORE. THE BAHAMA
ISLANDS. VEGETATION OF THE
BAHAMA ISLANDS, PP. 185-270**

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WILLIAM C. COKER & GEORGE BURBANK SHATTUCK

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THE BAHAMA ISLANDS

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THE BAHAMA ISLANDS

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VEGETATION OF THE BAHAMA ISLANDS

BY
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VEGETATION OF THE BAHAMA ISLANDS

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INTRODUCTION.

With the exception of New Providence, the numerous islands of the Bahama group lie outside the usual routes of tropical travel, and access to them can be had ordinarily only through the use of small schooners. The comparative insignificance of the Bahamas in their trade relations has intensified this isolation and resulted in their remaining in large measure, as *terra incognita* to the rest of the world. It is a strange commentary on the mutations of time, that on that very island where Columbus first set foot and praised his God for so fair a landing, there has been placed a lighthouse with but the single purpose of warning the mariner from its lonely shores.

In the hope of adding somewhat to our rather meager knowledge of these Islands, and of bringing into more accessible form the scattered observations of others, the Geographical Society of Baltimore, in the summer of 1903, organized an Expedition for the purpose of their exploration. I, with my two assistants, Mr. C. A. Shore and Mr. F. M. Hanes, was given charge of the botanical side, and this report is the result of observations and collections made during the voyage. As an apology for many deficiencies, I would call attention to the limited time at our disposal, and to the extreme difficulty of drying and preserving plants on the decks of a schooner generally exposed to a stiff breeze. Except in the town of Nassau, where we secured a working room for several days, the plants had to be brought to the boat and there pressed, labelled, and stowed away. On account of the salt air and frequent rains constant attention was necessary to prevent the decay of our specimens. Wherever possible notes were made on the spot, and it is from these that most of my descriptions are taken.

A large part of our time was consumed in sailing from port to port, or rather from point to point, as there are few protected harbors in the Islands;