WORLD'S BIGGEST SPONGE FOUND IN THE BAHAMAS.

The old and historic City of Nassau, New Providence, Bahamas Islands, experienced quite a sensation about the middle of March in the matter of sponges. The principal industry of Nassau is the gathering, curing, and selling of sponges, and quite a large fleet of schooners and many colored men, composing their crews, are engaged in gathering them around the neighboring islands. One of these schooners came to port recently, and brought off the largest fine sponge ever taken from the Atlantic Ocean. When laid out upon the dock among thousands of other sponges, it is what is known as the finest quality known among sponges. It is in form perfectly round, arched like an immense fruit cake, and is six feet in circumference and two feet in diameter in every direction. When taken from the water, it weighs between eighty and ninety pounds, and the fortunate man who captured it had a hard time landing it at the dock. It is divided three out and been relieved of all excrescences it weighs about twelve pounds.

Its equal in size, fine quality, and attractive appearance has never been seen before. When it was presented for sale it was put in a case by itself, and there were many competitors in the bidding for it, every dealer in sponges being anxious to secure it. It was finally awarded to the firm of O. F. Prichard at $25. It has been suggested to Mr. Prichard that the National Museum in Washington would go glad to receive such a curiosity.

There is a popular idea that sponges are secured by divers, who go under water and detach them from their holdings. The sponges are not attached to the bottom of the ocean or the rocks. When gathered they are attached to the spongers by a line, the spongers being able to control the growth of the sponges when they are detached from the bottom. The water grass is simply an ordinary pull or bucket with a glass bottom. Holding one of these over the side of his dory, the sponger相當s to the act of swimming on the bottom of the ocean, a pole having a hook on the end he seizes upon the sponge, ties it to a rope, and it is then transferred to the vessel. When a quantity has thus been secured, the vessel puts in to one of the islands, where a cache or penn is placed and the sponge is transferred to the vessel.

Gender of Garlic

WHY is garlic masculine gender? said the man who markets. "It must be masculine because the grocers buy it from the farmer; he. They are mostly Italians, and ought to know the sex of garlic if anybody does. Of all the vegetables and aromatic herbs I buy garlic is the only one to which masculine virtues are ascribed. Everything else is neutral. To call garlic 'it' would be an insult. The garlic, he is fresh, he is fine, he is cheap. He is dear. Funny, ain't it?"

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