

coral reefs, and these, in all probability, are based on the cones or craters of submarine volcanoes long since extinct. There is another circumstance worthy of remark: most of these islands have an inlet through the reef opposite to the large valleys of the neighbouring land, whence numerous streams issue and flow into the sea; an easy ingress is thus afforded to vessels, as well as the means of obtaining a supply of water.

Of the grand scale on which the changes here contemplated are going on, we may form some idea from the facts stated by competent observers, that in the Indian Ocean, to the south-west of Malabar, there is a chain of reefs and islets 480 geographical miles in length; on the east coast of New Holland, an unbroken reef 350 miles long; between that and New Guinea, a coral formation which extends upwards of 700 miles; and that Disappointment Islands and Duff's Group are connected by 600 miles of coral reefs, over which the natives can travel from one island to another.

There is so much of the marvellous and sublime in the idea of the creation of islands and continents by the ceaseless labours of numberless myriads of living instruments, that we cannot be surprised that this interesting subject has attracted the attention of one of the most elegant of our modern poets; I will relieve this detail by the following beautiful extract from the "Pelican Island," of James Montgomery:—