

Coral Reefs, which in itself would have sufficed to secure to him a lasting reputation. It is well known that the islands in the South Seas consist for the most part of coral reefs, and are surrounded by them. Formerly no satisfactory explanation could be given of their different and remarkable forms, and of their relation to those islands which are not formed of corals. It was reserved for Darwin to solve this difficult problem, for together with the constructive action of the coral zoophytes, he assumed geological risings and depressions of the bottom of the sea to account for the origin of the different forms of reefs. Darwin's Theory of the Origin of Coral Reefs, like his later one as to the Origin of Organic Species, is a theory which fully explains the phenomenon, and for this purpose assumes only the simplest natural causes, without hypothetically supporting it with any unknown processes. Among the remaining works of Darwin, I must not pass over his excellent monograph on the Cirrhipedia, a curious class of marine animals, which in their outward appearance resemble mussels, and were actually considered by Cuvier as Molluscs possessing two shells, while in truth they belonged to the Crustacea (crabs).

After his return from his voyage in the *Beagle*, Darwin resided for six years (between 1836 and 1842) partly in London and partly in Cambridge, and in the winter of 1839 married his cousin, Emma Wedgwood. The extraordinary hardships to which Darwin had been exposed during his five years' voyage had injured his health to such a degree that he was soon obliged to withdraw from the restless turmoil of London life. In the autumn of 1842 he purchased an estate close to the village of Down, near Bromley, in Kent. There he lived for forty years in quiet retirement, till the