

the proceeding and progress of these animals in erecting these mighty works, and of the manner in which the sea forms ridges, when the animals have carried their work as high as they can: upon these at length a soil is formed beyond the reach of its waves; a vegetation next commences, in time plants and trees spring up, animals arrive, and man himself finds it a convenient residence. His account is too long to copy, I must therefore refer the reader to it; but I must give here his statement of some proceedings of these animals, which have a bearing upon the principal design of the present work, and seem to indicate an instinctive sagacity in the polypes far above their rank in the animal kingdom, and quite inconsistent with their organization.

Speaking of Ducies Island, a formation of the coral animals, he describes it as taking the shape of a truncated cone, with the face downwards, the form best calculated to resist the action of the ocean, and then proceeds to say, "The north-eastern and south-western extremities are furnished with points which project under water with less inclination than the sides of the island, and break the sea before it can reach the barrier to the little lagoon formed within it. It is singular that these buttresses are opposed to the only two quarters whence their structure has to apprehend danger, that on the north-east, from the constant action of the trade wind, and that on the other extremity, from the long rolling swell from the south-west so prevalent in these latitudes; and it is worthy of observation, that this barrier, which has the most powerful enemy to oppose, is carried out much farther and with less abruptness than the other." We should feel some surprise if a bee, in the construction of its comb, should strengthen the points most exposed to injury; but that an animal apparently gifted with the lowest degree of sensation, and no intellect, should know