

his survey of the Maldives and Chagos group, found, at seven or eight fathoms, great masses of living coral; at ten fathoms, the same in groups with patches of white sand between; and, at a little greater depth, a smooth steep slope without any living coral; and further, on the Padua Bank, the northern part of the Laccadive group, which had a depth of twenty-five to thirty-five fathoms, he saw only dead coral, while on other banks in the same group, ten or twelve fathoms under water, there was growing coral.

In the Red Sea, however, according to Captain Moresby and Lieutenant Wellstead, there are, to the north, large beds of living corals at a depth of twenty-five fathoms, and the anchors were often entangled by them; and he attributes this depth, so much greater than reported by Ehrenberg, to the peculiar purity, or freedom from sediment, of the waters at that place. Kotzebue states that in some lagoons of the Marshall group he observed living corals at a depth of twenty-five fathoms, or one hundred and fifty feet.

Professor Agassiz observes that about the Florida reefs the reef-building corals do not extend below ten fathoms. Mr. L. F. de Pourtales states that he found species of *Oculina* and *Cladocora* off the Florida reefs living to a depth of fifteen fathoms.

It thus appears that all recent investigators since Quoy and Gaynard have agreed in assigning a comparatively small depth to growing corals. The observations on this point, made during the cruise of the Wilkes Exploring Expedition, tend to confirm this opinion.

The conclusion is borne out by the fact that soundings in the course of the various and extensive surveys afford no evidence of growing coral beyond twenty fathoms. Where the depth was fifteen fathoms, coral sand and fragments were almost uniformly reported. Among the Feejee Islands, the extent of coral-reef grounds surveyed was many hundreds of square miles, besides the harbours more carefully examined. The reefs of the Navigator Islands were also sounded out, with others at the Society group, besides numerous coral