

even in the Argo reef, and such other examples as offer now but a single rock above the surface of the inclosed lagoon, we shall endeavour to make apparent, if not already so, when the cause of the forms of coral islands is under discussion. Yet it is also evident that this correspondence is not exact, for many parts of the shores, and sometimes more than half the coasts, may be exposed to the sea, while other portions are protected by a wide barrier.

In recapitulation, we remark, that reefs around islands may be (1) entirely incircling; or they may be (2) confined to a larger or a smaller portion of the coast, either continuous or interrupted; they may (3) constitute throughout a distant barrier; or (4) the reef may be fringing in one part and a barrier in another; or (5) it may be fringing alone: the barrier may be (6) at a great distance from the shores, with a wide sea within, or (7) it may so unite to the fringing reef that the channel between will hardly float a canoe. These points are sustained by all reef regions.

It is to be noted that the fringing and barrier reefs here pointed out are not the whole of the coral reef; they are only the portions that have been built up to the water's level. Between them, and also outside of all, there are the submerged coral banks which are continuous with the higher portions, and all together make up the coral reef-ground of an island.

A wide difference in the extent of reef-grounds follows from the above-mentioned facts. On some coasts there are only scattered groups of corals, or rising knolls, or mere points of emerged coral rock; but again, as, for example, west of the two large Feejee Islands, there may be three thousand square miles of continuous reef-ground, occupied with coral patches and intermediate channels or seas. The inclosing barrier off Vanua Levu alone is more than one hundred miles long. The Exploring Isles, in the eastern part of the Feejee group, have a barrier eighty miles in circuit. New Caledonia has a reef along its whole western shores, a distance of two hundred and fifty miles, and it extends one hundred and fifty miles further north, adding this much to the length of the island.