

tions of the author afforded him striking illustrations of its truth; and elucidate some points which were still deemed obscure, establishing the theory, as he believes, on a firm basis of evidence, and exhibiting its complete correspondence with observation.

The reader may turn again to the chart of the Feejee Group, and glance successively at the islands Goro, Angau, Nairai, Lakemba, Argo Reef, Exploring Isles, and Nanuku. It will be observed that in Goro, the reef closely encircles the land upon whose submarine shores it was built up. In the island next mentioned, the reef has the same character, but is more distant from the shores, forming what has been termed a barrier reef; the name implying a difference in position, but none in mode of formation. In the last of the islands enumerated, the barrier reef includes a large sea, and the island it incloses is but a rocky peak within this sea.

Can we account for this diversity in the position of barrier reefs, and in their extent as compared with the inclosed land? There is evidently one way, in accordance with Mr. Darwin's theory, in which these features might have been produced. If, for example, such an island as Angau were very gradually to subside, from some subterranean cause, two results would take place:—the land would slowly disappear, while the coral reef, ever in constant upward increase, as has been explained, might retain itself at the surface, if the rapidity of subsidence were not beyond a certain rate. This subsidence might go on till the last mountain peak remained alone above the waters. Should we not then have a Nanuku? Suppose the subsidence not to have proceeded to this extent, but to leave still a single ridge and a few isolated summits above the waves; would not its condition in this case be that of the Exploring Isles? On such a supposition, reefs of large size encircling a mere point of rock might be explained even to every feature. The subsidence of Goro, on the same principle, would produce an Angau, or, carried further, a Nanuku.

It may here be remarked, that the fact that changes of level over vast areas of the earth's surface have taken place is fully