

would probably be glad, after a short experience, to transfer it to an island of larger dimensions, like Tahiti or Upolu, one more varied in surface and productions; that has its mountains and precipices; its gorges and open valleys; leaping torrents not less than surging billows; and forests spreading up the declivities, as well as groves of palms and corals by the shores.

The mineral alluded to above as the one mineral product of atolls is calcite, or carbonate of lime, the material of the coral rock; and this is the only kind on the great majority of them.

But on some of the smaller islands, in the drier equatorial part of the ocean, there are, in addition to this, and the stones brought by logs with the floating pumice, beds of gypsum which have been made through the evaporation of sea-water (which holds it in solution) in the gradually drying lagoon basins; and also large deposits of guano from the multitudes of sea birds that occupy them. Such are Jarvis's, Baker's, Howland's, Malden's, McKean's, Birnie's, Phoenix's, Enderbury's, and probably other islands in the dry central equatorial Pacific. As these deposits are connected with the completion of the coral island, and its accompanying reduction in size, and illustrate one of the ways by which new minerals are added to a destitute land, a few facts are here cited from an article in the *American Journal of Science*, volume xxxiv. (1862), by J. D. Hague, who resided for several months on the islands he describes.

Baker's Island is situated in lat. $0^{\circ} 13'$ north, and long. $176^{\circ} 22'$ west from Greenwich, and excepting Howland's Island, forty miles distant, is very remote from any other land. It is about one mile long and two-thirds of a mile wide. The surface is nearly level; the highest point is twenty-two feet above the level of the sea, showing some evidence of elevation.

Above the crown of the beach there is a sandy ridge which encircles the guano deposit. This marginal ridge is about one hundred feet wide on the lee side of the island, and is there