

formed from the guano deposits on a coral island; Sombrero, in the Caribbean Sea.

Lord Byron, of the *Blonde*, mentions that phosphate of lime (apatite) was collected by him on Mauke, an elevated coral island of the Hervey Group; west of the Society Islands, but its exact condition in the rock is not stated.

Coral islands are exposed to earthquakes and storms like the continents, and occasionally a devastating wave sweeps across the land. During the heavier gales, the natives sometimes secure their houses by tying them to the cocoanut trees, or to a stake planted for the purpose. A height of ten or twelve feet, the elevation of their land, is easily overtopped by the more violent seas; and great damage is sometimes experienced. The still more extensive earthquake-waves, such as those which have swept up the coast of Spain, Peru, and the Sandwich Islands, would produce a complete deluge over these islands. We were informed by both Grey and Kirby, that effects of this kind had been experienced at the Gilbert Islands; but the statements were too indefinite to determine whether the results should be attributed to storms or to this more violent cause.

But while coral islands have their storms, the region in their vicinity is generally one of light winds and calms, even when the trades are blowing strongly all around them. The heated air which rises from the islands lifts the currents to a considerable height above the island. J. D. Hague mentions that on Jarvis's and the two neighbouring islands, under the equator, near 180° in longitude from Greenwich, he "often observed the remarkable phenomenon of a rain-squall approaching the island, and, just before reaching it, separating into two parts, one of which passed by on the north, the other on the south side, the cloud having been cleft by the column of heated air rising from the white coral sands."