

equator; and the seas of the Galapagos also grow no coral. The northward deflection of the coral boundary line accounts, as has been shown, for their absence. In the Bay of Panama, and elsewhere on the coast, north and south, corals occur in patches, but there are no reefs. There are corals also at La Paz, near the extremity of the peninsula of California (p. 86).

In Captain Colnett's voyage, allusion is made to a beach of coral sand on one of the Revillagigedo Islands, in latitude  $18^{\circ}$ ; besides this statement we have met with no allusion to corals on any of the islands off the Mexican coast.

Between the South American coast and the Paumotus are two rocky islands, Easter or Waihu, and Sala-y-Gomez, both of which are stated to be without reefs.

Captain Beechey mentions, however, that at forty-one fathoms, near Sala-y-Gomez, he found a bottom of sand and coral.

The Paumotus commence in longitude  $130^{\circ}$  W., and embrace eighty coral islands, all of which, excepting about eight of small size, contain lagoons. Besides these, there are, near the southern limits of the archipelago, the Gambier Islands and Pitcairn, of volcanic or basaltic constitution. The former in  $23^{\circ}$  S., have extensive reefs. About the latter, in  $25^{\circ}$  S., there are some growing corals, but no proper reefs.

The Marquesas, in latitude  $10^{\circ}$  S., have but little coral about them; and this is the more remarkable, since they are in close proximity to the Paumotus. But their shores are mostly very abrupt, with deep waters close to the rocks. An island which, before subsidence has commenced, has some extent of shallow waters around, might have very bold shores after it had half sunk beneath the waves. This would be the case with the island of Tahiti; for its mountain declivities are, in general, singularly precipitous, except at the base. The Marquesas may, therefore, have once had barrier reefs, which were sunk from too rapid subsidence; and afterward, on the cessation of the subsidence, others failed to form again on account of the deep waters.

The Society Islands have extensive coral reefs with distant