

The many islands afford a peculiarly favourable region for the growth of zoöphytes, and the displays of reefs and living corals were the most remarkable seen by the author in the Pacific.

North of the Feejees are numerous islands leading up to the Carolines. They are all of coral, excepting Rotuma, Horne and Wallis's Islands, which are high, and have fringing or barrier reefs. The reefs of Wallis's Island are very extensive.

The Gilbert or Kingsmill Islands, the Marshall Islands, and the Carolines, about eighty in number, are all atolls, excepting the three Carolines, Ponape (Pouynipete of Lutke), Kusaie (or Ualan), and Truk (or Hogoleu). Between Ponape and Ualan, the McAskill Islands, three in number, are of coral, but sixty to 100 feet high (*Miss. Herald*, 1856, p. 193).

The westernmost of the Sandwich Islands, Kauai and Oahu, have fringing reefs, while eastern Maui and the island of Hawaii have but few traces of corals. On Hawaii, the only spot of reef seen by us was a submerged patch off the southern cape of Hilo Bay. We have already attributed the absence of corals to the volcanic character of the island. The small islands to the north-west of Kauai are represented as coral reefs, excepting the rocks Necker and Bird Island; the line stretches on to 28° 30' N., the northern limit of the coral seas. *Lisiansky's Voyage*, 1803-'6 in the *Neva*, 4to., London, 1814, pp. 254, 256, contains an account of some of these islands; also the *Hawaiian Spectator*, vol. i.; and also a "Report to the U. S. Bureau of Navigation," December, 1867, by Captain William Reynolds, U.S.N., partially reproduced in the *American Journal of Science* for 1871, vol. ii., p. 380.

The Ladrões, like the Hawaiian Group, constitute a line or linear series of islands, one end of which has been long free from volcanic action, while the other has still its smoking cones. The appearances of recent igneous action increase therefore as we go northward, and the extent of the coral reefs increase as we go southward; no reefs occur about the northernmost islands, while they are quite extensive on the shores of