

Guam. This group, consequently, like the Hawaiian and Navigator, illustrates the influence of volcanic action on the distribution of reefs.

A short distance south-west of the Ladrões, and nearly in the same line, lie extensive reefs. Mackenzie's is an atoll of large size. Yap (or Eap), Hunter's, Los Matelotas and the Pelews (Palao), are high islands, with large reefs. In the last-mentioned, the reef-grounds cover at least six times the area occupied by the high land. Still farther south, toward New Zealand, lie the large atolls Aiou, Asie, and Los Guedes.

*South of the equator again*:—The New Hebrides constitute a long group of high islands, remarkable for the absence of coral reefs of any extent, though situated between two of the most extensive coral regions in the world—the Feejees and New Caledonia. But the volcanic nature of the group, and the still active fires of two vents in its opposite extremities, are a sufficient reason for this peculiarity. Tanna is one of the largest volcanoes of the Pacific; and nearly all the islands of the New Hebrides, as far as known, indicate comparatively recent igneous action, in which respect they differ decidedly from the Feejees.

The Vanikoro Group, north of the New Hebrides, according to Quoy, has large barrier reefs about the southernmost island, Vanikoro; but at the northern extremity of the range there is an active volcano, Tinakoro, and no coral. Tikopia, to the south-east of Vanikoro, is high and volcanic, according to Quoy, though not now with active fires; and it appears, from the descriptions given, to have no reefs. Mendana, north-east of Tinakoro, according to Kruesenstern, as stated by Darwin, is low, with large reefs; Duff's Islands have bold summits with wide reefs.

New Caledonia, and the north-east coast of New Holland, with the intermediate seas, constitute one of the grandest reef-regions in the world. On the New Caledonia shores (p. 106), the reefs are of great width, and occur not only along the whole length of the western coast, a distance of 200 miles, but