

the most efficient cause of their absence, both directly, through their fresh waters, and through the detritus they transport and distribute along the shores. It will be observed that this agent, so ineffectual on small islands, is one of vast influence upon larger lands. Mr. Darwin alludes to small patches of coral in the Persian Gulf. Ceylon has some fringing reefs.

The islands of the Indian Ocean are, to a great extent, purely of coral. Of this character are the Laccadives, Maldives, Keeling's, Saya-de-Malha, Almirante, and Cosmoledo. The Chagos Group is of the same character, and the shoal Cargados is probably similar. The Seychelles are small islands with extensive reefs.

Madagascar has a fringing reef upon its south-western point, according to Mr. Darwin, and on some parts of the coast above: also on the north and eastern shores far down as latitude  $18^{\circ}$  S. The Comoro Islands, between Madagascar and the continent, have large barrier reefs.

The eastern coast of Africa has narrow reefs extending north with some interruptions from Mozambique, in latitude  $16^{\circ}$  S., to a short distance from the equator. Corals also abound in the Red Sea, occurring in some parts on both shores, though most frequent on the eastern, from Tor, in the Gulf of Suez, to Konfodah. This long continental reef may at first be deemed a little remarkable, after what has been stated about such reefs elsewhere. Yet the surprise is at once set aside by the striking fact that this whole coast, from the Isthmus of Suez south, has no rivers, excepting some inconsiderable streams. It affords, therefore, an interesting elucidation of the subject under consideration, and confirms the view taken to account for the absence of reefs from many continental coasts. It is a fact almost universal, that where there are large fresh-water streams, there are earthy, or sandy shores; and where there are no such streams, rocky shores, though not uniformly occurring, are common.

On the African coast there are coral reefs at Port Natal, in latitude  $30^{\circ}$  S.; and here, owing to the warm currents from the