

d. That the subsidence gradually diminished southwestwardly from some point of greatest depression situated to the northward and eastward, is apparent from the Feejee Group alone. Its north-east portion (see chart), consists of immense barriers, with barely a single point of rock remaining of the submerged land; while in the west and south-west there are mountain islands of great magnitude. Again, along the north side of the Vanikoro Group, Salomon Islands, and New Ireland, there are coral atolls, but scarcely one to the south.

In view of this combination of evidence, we cannot doubt that the subsidence increased from the south to the northward or north-eastward, and was greatest between the Navigator and Hawaiian Islands, near the centre of the area destitute of islands, about longitude 170° to 175° W., and 8° to 10° N.

But we may derive some additional knowledge respecting this area of subsidence from other facts.

Hawaiian Range.—We observe that the western islands in the Hawaiian Range, beyond Bird Island, are atolls, and all indicate a large participation in this subsidence. To the eastward in the range, Kauai and Oahu have only fringing reefs, yet in some places these reefs are half a mile to three-fourths in width. They indicate a long period since they began to grow, which is borne out by the features of Kauai showing a long respite from volcanic action. We detect proof of subsidence, but not of a large amount. Moreover, there are no deep bays; and besides, Kauai has a gently-sloping coast plain of great extent, with a steep shore acclivity of one to three hundred feet, all tending to prove the smallness of the subsidence. We should, therefore, conclude that these islands lie near the limits of the subsiding area, and that the change of level was greatest at the western extremity of the range beyond Kauai.

The coral subsidence of the western islands of the range bear some evidence of having in recent times commenced a new subsidence. They all have little dry land and vegetation about the reefs. *Brooks's Island*, in latitude $28^{\circ} 15'$ and longitude $177^{\circ} 20'$ W., eighteen miles in circumference, has on its