

The most convenient mode of reviewing the subject is to state in order the facts relating to each group.

*a. Paumotu Archipelago.*—The islands of this archipelago appear in general to have that height which the ocean may give to the materials. Nothing was detected indicating any *general* elevation in progress through the archipelago. The large extent of wooded land shows only that the islands have been long at their present level; and on this point the author's observations confirm those of Mr. Darwin. There are examples of elevation in particular islands, however, some of which are of unusual interest. The instances examined by the Expedition are those of Honden Island (or Henuake), Dean's Island (or Nairsa), Aurora (or Metia), and Clermont Tonnerre. Besides these, Elizabeth Island has been described by Beechey, and the same author mentions certain facts relating to Ducie's Island and Osnaburgh, which afford some suspicions of a rise.

*Honden Island or Henuake.*—This island is wooded on its different sides, and has a shallow lagoon. The beach is eight feet high, and the land about twelve. There are three entrances to the lagoons, all of which were dry at low water, and one only was filled at high water. Around the lagoon, near the level of high tide, there were numerous deserted shells of the huge *Tridacna*, often a foot long, lying in cavities in the coral rock, precisely as they occur alive on the shore reef. As these *Tridacnas* evidently lived where the shells remain, and do not occur alive more than six or eight inches, or a foot at the most, above low tide, they prove, in connection with the other facts, an elevation of at least *two* feet.

*Nairsa or Dean's Island.*—The south side of Dean's Island, the largest of the Paumotus, was coasted along by the *Peacock*, one of the Sloops of War of the Wilkes Exploring Expedition, and from the vessel we observed that the rim of land consisted for miles of an even wall of coral rock, apparently six or eight feet above high tide. This wall was broken into rude columns, or excavated with arches and caverns; in some places the sea had carried it away from fifty to one hundred rods, and then