

vessel were two hundred yards inside of the line of breakers. Captain Beechey suggests that the coral had grown, and thus increased the height. But this process might have buried the anchor if the reef were covered with growing corals (which is improbable), and could not have raised its level. If there has been any increase of height (which we do not say is certain), it must have arisen from an upheaval.

*b. Tahitian Group.*—The island of Tahiti presents no conclusive evidence of elevation. The shore plains are said to rest on coral, which the mountain débris has covered; but they do not appear to indicate a rise of the land.

The descriptions by different authors of the other islands of this group do not give sufficient reason for confidently believing that any of them have been elevated. The change, however, of the barrier reef around Bolabola into a verdant belt encircling the island may be evidence that a long period has elapsed since the subsidence ceased; and, as such a change is not common in the Pacific, we may suspect that it has been furthered by at least a small amount of elevation. The observation by the Rev. D. Tyerman with regard to the shells found at Huahine high above the sea, may be proof of elevation; but the earlier erroneous conclusions with regard to Tahiti (on which island masses of coral are carried by natives up the mountain, to leave at the highest point reached, and also to mark the limits between the land of different chiefs, and are common from these causes, up to a height of fifteen hundred feet), teach us to be cautious in admitting it without a more particular examination of the deposit. Moreover, shells, even large ones, are carried far away from the sea by Hermit Crabs (Pagurids).

*c. Hervey and Rurutu Groups.*—These groups lie to the south-west and south of Tahiti.

*Mangaia* is girted by an elevated coral reef three hundred feet in height. Mr. Williams, in his *Missionary Enterprises* pages 48, 50, and 249, speaks of it as coral, with a small quantity of fine-grained basalt in the interior of the island; he states again that a broad ridge (the reef) girts the hills.