

have been bending downward over the vast central area of the great ocean.

The changes which took place, contemporaneously, in the Atlantic tropics are very imperfectly recorded. The Bahamas show by their form and position that they cover a submerged land of large area stretching over six hundred miles from north-west to south-east. The long line of reefs and the Florida Keys, trending far away from the land of southern Florida, are evidence that this Florida region participated in the downward movement, though to a less extent than the Bahamas. Again, the islands of the West Indies diminish in size to the eastward, being quite small, in a long line that looks out upon the blank ocean, just as if the subsidence increased in that direction. Finally, the Atlantic beyond is water only, as if it had been made a blank by the sinking of its lands.

Thus the size of the islands, as well as the existence of coral banks, and also the blankness of the ocean's surface, all appear to bear evidence to a great subsidence.

The peninsula of Florida, Cuba, and the Bahamas look, as they lie together, as if all were once part of a greater Florida or south-eastern prolongation of the continent. The north-western and south-western trends, characterizing the great features of the American continent, run through the whole like a warp-and-woof structure, binding them together in one system; the former trend, the north-west, existing in Florida and the Bahamas, and the main line of Cuba; and the latter course, the west-southwest, in cross lines of islands in the Bahamas (one at the north extremity, another in the line of Nassau, and others to the south-east), in the high lands of north-western and south-eastern Cuba, and in the Florida line of reefs, and even farther, in a submerged ridge between Florida and Cuba. This combination of the two continental trends shows that the lands are one in system, if they were never one in continuous dry land.

We cannot here infer that there was a *regular* increase of subsidence from Florida eastward, or that Florida and Cuba