

in the ocean of many granitic mountain chains, they do teach that there are long ranges, or lines, of volcanic ridges and peaks, and some of these may be among the discoveries of future dredging expeditions. A range of deep-sea cones, or sunken volcanic islands, would be as interesting a discovery as a deep-sea sponge or coral, even if it should refuse, excepting perhaps a mere fragment, to come to the surface in the dredge.

We may also accept, with some confidence, the conclusion that atolls and barrier reefs originated in the same great balance-like movement of the earth's crust that gave elevation and cold, in the Glacial era, to high-latitude lands. If so, the tropics and the colder latitudes were performing their several works simultaneously in preparation for the coming era; and it is a gain to us in our contemplations, that we hence may balance the beauty and repose of the tropics, through all the progressing changes, against the prolonged scenes of glacial desolation that prevailed over large portions of the continents.