

cape. South of this cape there are only a few scattered coral zoöphytes.

The Louisiade Group is described as a region of extensive reefs.

The Salomon Islands, as far as ascertained, are but sparingly fringed, except the two westernmost, which are said to have large reefs. The peculiar character of these lands is too imperfectly known to allow of our deducing the cause of so restricted reefs. Off to the north of the Salomon Islands there are several islands of considerable size. New Ireland, according to D'Urville, has distant reefs on part of its shores.

The Admiralty Islands, farther west, are inclosed by barrier reefs, and beyond this group there are a few lagoon islands.

The north side of New Guinea is mostly without coral. There are several islands off this coast, which are conical volcanic summits, and one of them, near New Britain, and another, Vulcano, near longitude 145° E., are in action.

From the facts thus far detailed, the connection between the prevalence or extent of reefs, and the various causes assigned as limiting or promoting their growth, is obvious. The amount of subsidence determines in some cases the distance of barrier reefs from shore ; but it by no means accounts for the difference in their extent in different parts of a single group of islands. Indeed, if this cause be considered alone, every grade of extent, from no subsidence to the largest amount, might in many instances be proved as having occurred on a single island. Of far greater importance, as has appeared, is the volcanic character of the land. At whatever time the existing reefs in the Pacific commenced their growth, they began about those of the igneous islands whose fires had become nearly or quite extinct ; and as others in succession were extinguished, these became, in their turn, the sites of corals, and of coral reefs. Those lands whose volcanoes still burn are yet without corals, or there are only limited patches on some favoured spots. Zoöphytes and volcanoes are the land-making