

north and east sides a compact coral wall of about five feet elevation, which continues for four and a quarter miles, and then becomes a line of detached rocks at tide level. This bare wall, thus described by Capt. Wm. Reynolds, U.S.N., appears to be an indication that the land was once finished off under a cessation of subsidence, but that a sinking of small amount has since taken place, amounting perhaps to *four* or *five* feet.

Ocean Island, in $28^{\circ} 25' N.$, $178^{\circ} 25' W.$, another of this range, is very similar to Brooks's in its wall of coral rock on the east; and so also is *Pearl* and *Hermes'* reef, in $27^{\circ} 50' N.$, $176^{\circ} W.$, though the wall of the latter is more a series of detached rocks than a continuous parapet.

Marquesas.—The Marquesas are remarkable for their abrupt shores, often inaccessible cliffs, and deep bays. The absence of gentle slopes along the shores, their angular features, abrupt soundings close alongside the island, and deep indentations, all bear evidence of subsidence to some extent; for their features are very similar to those which Kauai or Tahiti would present if buried half its height in the sea, leaving only the sharper ridges and peaks out of water. They are situated but five degrees north of the Paumotus, where eighty islands or more have disappeared, including one at least fifty miles in length. There is sufficient evidence that they participated in the subsidence of the latter, but not to the same extent. They are nearly destitute of coral, and apparently because of the depth of water about the islands.

Gambier Group.—In the southern limits of the Paumotu Archipelago, where, in accordance with the foregoing views, the least depression in that region should have taken place, there are actually, as we have stated, two high islands, *Pitcairn's* and *Gambier's*. There is evidence, however, in the extensive barrier about the *Gambier's* (see cut on page 227), that this subsidence, although less than farther north, was by no means of small amount. On page 126, we have estimated it at 1,150 feet—possibly 1,750. These highlands therefore, although toward the limits of the subsiding area, were still