

participated in it equally with the intermediate or adjoining seas; for the facts in the Pacific have shown that the subsiding oceanic area had its nearly parallel bands of greater and less subsidence, that areas of greatest sinking alternated with others of less, as explained on page 279; and that the groups of high islands are along the bands of least sinking. So in the Atlantic, the subsidence was probably much greater between Florida and Cuba than in the peninsula of Florida itself; and greater along the Caribbean Sea parallel with Cuba, as well as along the Bahama reefs, than in Cuba:

The position of the lonely Bermuda atoll confirms these deductions. Its solitary state is reason for suspecting that great changes have taken place about it; for it is not natural for islands to be alone. The tongue of warm water due to the Gulf Stream, in which the Bermudas lie, is narrow, and an island a hundred miles or more distant to the northeast-by-east, or in the line of its trend (p. 183), if experiencing the same subsidence that made the Bermuda land an atoll, would have disappeared without a coral monument to bear record to its former existence. Twenty miles to the southwest-by-west from the Bermudas there are two submerged banks, twenty to forty-seven fathoms under water, showing that the Bermudas are not completely alone, and demonstrating that they cover a summit in a range of heights; and it may have been a long range. This suggestion as to the former extent of the Bermuda Group has been recently sustained by the observations of Mr. J. Matthew Jones, cited on page 185.

In the Indian Ocean, again, there is evidence that the coral-island subsidence was one that affected the oceanic area more than the adjoining borders of the continent, and most, the central parts of the ocean. For, in the first place, the archipelago of the Maldives narrows and deepens to the southward (p. 152). Further, the large Chagos Group, lying to the south of the Maldives, contains but very little dry land in any of its extensive reefs, while some of them, including the Great Chagos Bank, are sunken atolls. Again, still other large reefs nearly bare, lie to the south-west of the Chagos Group; while