light over the subject, and called forth feelings of peculiar satisfaction, and of gratefulness to Mr. Darwin, which still come up afresh whenever the subject of coral islands is mentioned. The Gambier Islands, in the Paumotus, which gave him the key to the theory, I had not seen; but on reaching the Feejees, six months later, in 1840, I found there similar facts on a still grander scale and of more diversified character, so that I was afterward enabled to speak of his theory as established with more positiveness than he himself, in his philosophic caution, had been ready to adopt. His work on Coral Reefs appeared in 1842, when my Report on the subject was already in manuscript. It showed that the conclusions on other points, which we had independently reached, were for the most part the same. The principal points of difference relate to the reason for the absence of corals from some coasts, and the evidence therefrom as to changes of level, and the distribution of the oceanic regions of elevation and subsidence—topics which a wide range of travel over the Pacific brought directly and constantly to my attention.

In the preparation of the present work my former chapter on Coral Reefs and Islands has been greatly extended by the addition of facts from numerous sources. The authorities cited from are stated in the course of the volume, and need not here be rementioned. I have occasion, however, for special acknowledgments to our excellent Yale Zoölogist, Professor A. E. VERRILL, who now stands first in the country in the department of Zoöphytes. Through his recent memoirs on the subject, and also by his personal advice, I have been greatly aided in acquainting myself with the present state of the science :—my own special labours in this branch of Zoölogy having ended in 1850, when both the Reports referred to above had been published, and the last of my Expedition departments—that of the Crustacea—forced my studies in another direction.

The illustrations of the following pages have been drawn mainly from my Expedition Reports. Those not my own are