

some parts, from which the mountains rise more or less abruptly. At the head of Fare Harbour, the shore plain is nearly a mile wide, and the strewed shells and fragments of coral in the soil, strongly indicate that the tract had been recovered from the sea, and that the waves once washed against the very foot of the mountain.\*

*Raiatea and Tahaa.*—These two islands are enclosed within the same reef like Huahine and Huahine-iti; but each has its own slopes and ridges independent of the other, showing no evidence that they have been rent asunder. On the contrary, they may be better compared to the two peninsulas of Tahiti; for were this last-mentioned island to subside but little, we should have Raiatea and Tahaa over again. The channel between these islands is from three to five miles wide, and the sea is quite shallow. The mountains of Raiatea are more lofty than those of Huahine, and equally broken and picturesque. The whole coast is cut up with deep indentations, and in Tahaa they are so remarkable that the natives compare the island to a cuttle-fish, its spreading arms corresponding to the jutting points or capes.

*Borabora.*—This island, at first sight from the ship, appears like a lofty cone, but a nearer view opens its valleys, and breaks the surface into peaks and ridges. Its height may be estimated at three thousand feet. Coral reefs skirt the shores.

*Maurua.*—The mountains of this island are, as usual, highest at the centre, and seem to form a single peak, in the distant prospect. They are described as less broken into valleys than the other Society Islands. A reef surrounds the island, with a single break or entrance on the southwest side.

From the accounts of the islands we have here reviewed, we find that they correspond in general structure with Tahiti. At the centre is the highest summit, and from it the valleys radiate more or less regularly towards the shores around. The same origin may be attributed to their features as to those of Tahiti. The nature of the rocks, as far as can be ascertained, is similar. On Borabora, Ellis found "masses of rocks, apparently composed of feldspar and quartz," and on Maurua, a species of granite is found in considerable abundance, along with the vesicular lava, and the basalt common to all the islands. These varieties of rock appear to resemble the syenite of Tahiti,

\* Tyerman and Bennett, i. 184, 185.