

which is a crystalline feldspathic rock, very similar to a grayish-white feldspathic rock that was observed passing into basalt in New Holland.

The most striking feature of the northwestern islands is the depth of the bays. I shall hereafter show that this fact is connected with a greater amount of subsidence than has been experienced farther south.

The extent of the shore plains, and the large lakes in some places cut off from the sea, evince the accumulating force of the waves, acting along with the growth of coral reefs. There are many places besides those mentioned, where embankments have been thus thrown up by the sea, inside of which are marshy areas. They also appear to indicate, more decidedly than anything observed on Tahiti, a rise of several feet since the preceding era of subsidence ceased.

The great amphitheatre of Eimeo appears to be analogous to that west of Orohena in Tahiti. Yet a more particular examination is required before we can safely base upon it all the deductions which it seems to authorize. The descriptions carry us at once to the volcanic regions of the Canaries, and the walled amphitheatres there; but we forbear urging the comparison.

We have little evidence with regard to the progression in the fires that once burned along the Tahitian range. Still the character of the rocks and the features of the surface lead us to the opinion that the fires were first extinct at the northwest end of the line, and last at the southeast. This corresponds with the course in the Sandwich Islands, and is the reverse of that in the Navigators.