



# Geology Volume 1; chemical, physical, and stratigraphical

*Sir Joseph Prestwich*

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1886 Excerpt: ... Atiu (Hervey Group), 12 feet; Mangaia, 300 feet; Rurutu, 150 feet; Eoa (Tonga Group), nearly 300 feet; Vavao, 100 feet; Savage Island, 100 feet; and many others. Absence of Volcanoes. Darwin also remarks, that the absence of active volcanoes throughout the greater part of the area of subsidence, namely, in the central parts of the Indian Ocean, in the China Sea, in the sea between the barriers of Australia and New Caledonia, in the Caroline, Marshall, Gilbert, and Low Archipelagoes, is a very striking fact. So is the presence of active volcanic vents and chains on or near many of the shores which are fringed with reefs; for these fringed coasts have in a number of cases been recently upheaved. The absence of coral islands in other areas of elevation, such as the long western coast of South America and other parts of the Pacific, where volcanic action is rife, has been already accounted for by the influence of cold polar currents; but, until it could be shown that volcanoes were absent or inactive in subsiding areas, the conclusion that their distribution depended on the nature of the subterranean movements in progress would have been hazardous. 'But now,' Darwin remarks, 'it may be considered as almost established that volcanoes are often present in the areas which have lately risen or are still rising, and are invariably absent in those which have lately subsided or are still subsiding'; and this he looked upon as the most important generalisation to which the study of coral-reefs indirectly led him. He concluded by remarking that these great barrier-reefs and coral islands 'offer a grand and harmonious picture of the movements which the crust of the earth has undergone within a late period. We there see vast areas rising, with volcanic matter every now ...

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