

are based upon the present relative depths of the intervening seas, and, while admitting, or rather suggesting, a former connection between New Zealand and Eastern Australia, he utterly rejects Captain Hutton's theory of a southern continent uniting the former with South America, and perhaps also with South Africa. Without going so far as Hutton, we think the botanical evidence, as explained further on, strongly favours a former greater land connection in a lower latitude in the south temperate zone than Wallace admits, and we cling to this "forlorn hope of the botanical geographer," as Sir Joseph Hooker terms it; for all the various means by which plants are diffused seem to be inadequate to account for the present distribution of plants in the coldest southern zone of vegetation.

*Seemann, B.*—This author merits special mention here for the immense amount of information concerning the vegetation of Polynesia he embodied in his *Flora Vitiensis*. How much it contains is only apparent on a thorough examination of the work, for he gives no summary nor tabular view of the distribution of the vegetation. He utilised the collections made by the early voyagers, as well as various unpublished documents relating thereto, in the British Museum.

*Grisebach, A. H. R.*—The chapter on Oceanic Islands in *Die Vegetation der Erde* (and especially as supplemented in the French edition of Tchihatchef) is doubtless the best general account in existence of the botany and geology (the latter only in the French edition) of oceanic islands; but there are a great many blanks in the floral statistics, a number of which are more or less filled by the present work; and these insular floras are considered by Grisebach apart from all continental floras.

*Moseley, H. N.*—Independently of the collections of dried plants, the drift-seeds and seed-vessels, and the seeds from the crops of pigeons, Mr Moseley has in various publications recorded the observation of a large number of facts bearing on plant geography, which add much to the value of the Reports on the Botany of the Expedition.

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#### CLASSIFICATION OF ISLANDS IN RELATION TO THE COMPOSITION OF THEIR VEGETATION.

The classification of islands proposed by Wallace, whose definitions are reproduced on the preceding page, harmonises on the whole very well with differences in the characteristic features of the vegetation of some islands; but it is not adapted for exhibiting the floral peculiarities of islands generally—because, apart from latitude, the sources of the vegetation of oceanic islands, for example, are obviously so various that a classification based on age and the degree of isolation alone is inapplicable. A glance at the composition of the vegetation of the Bermudas and the Galapagos is sufficient to show that these two groups