

ART. XXXVIII.—*Corals at the Galapagos Islands*, by L. F.
POURTALÉS.

THE Galapagos Islands are, as is well known, an important point in the geographical distribution of corals, being almost exactly on the boundary of the coral-producing part of the Pacific Ocean, and that portion which is destitute of them on account of the low temperature of the water. All the writers

* Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. of New York, viii, 149, May, 1865.

on the subject have placed this group of islands in this latter portion. During the visit of the United States Coast Survey steamer Hassler, a number of specimens of corals, of which the following is the list, were picked up on the beaches of several of the islands:

Ulangia Bradleyi Verrill, Indefatigable Island.

Pavonia gigantea Verrill, James Island.

Pavonia clivosa Verrill, Indefatigable Island.

Pavonia, sp., James Island.

Astropsammia Pedersenii Verrill.

Pocillipora capitata Verrill, Jervis and Charles Islands.

Porites, sp.

The undetermined *Pavonia* is a massive species with larger calices than those of the two other ones, and more porous and lighter. The specimen is too much rolled for nearer determination. The *Porites* is massive, also, and in the same condition.

The species are all, or nearly all, identical with those found at Panama. They are mostly reef-builders, but here live probably isolated and at a certain depth, having never been observed *in situ*. In individual growth they are fully equal to those from more favored localities, the rolled pieces of *Pavonia* measuring six or seven inches in diameter, thus indicating masses of considerable size originally. They are not confined to the northernmost islands of the group, where we should more naturally look for them, from the greater proximity to the warm current, but as the list shows, a *Pocillipora* was found at Charles Island, one of the southernmost. The probability of fragments drifting from one island to the other is very small, owing to the considerable depth of water between them.