THE EVENING NEWS.

. . . October 27, 1870 Thursday,

RACT.

Mr. Richard Brown writes to the London Times some facts concerning the recently discovered water-fall on the Potaro river, British Guiana, which is over seven hundred feet in height. The examination of it was made in April last by Mr. Brown, in company with Sir G. Young, Mr. Chs. Mitchell and Mr. King. The description says:

The fall was a clear descent, according to barometrical observations taken simultaneously by Mr. Brown at the bot-tom, and my colleague, Mr. Mitchell, at the top, of seven hundred and fifty feet. Above the Potaro glides smoothly in a slight depression of the table of conglomerate sandstone, and disappears over the edge in a body which we estimated at eighty yards in width, and of depth uncertain in the centre, but shallowing rapidly toward either bank. When Mr. Brown discovered the Fall in April the rocky channel was com-pletely covered, and the stream must have had a width of at least one hundred yards. At present it is diminishing in volume, and, as the Indians assured us, will continue to do so until October, when only the central and deeper portion, about one-third of the whole, will remain. The best time, therefore, for a visit is in the spring, at

As we saw the Fall I cannot imagine anything more beautiful. The central portion, which is never dry, forms a small horseshoe or re-entering angle, and the water in this part preserves its consistency for a short distance from the CHEMICALS, DYE STUFFS, ESSENTIAL ledge. But everywhere else, and here also, at a few feet from the top, all semblance of water disappears; it breaks up, or blossoms into fine foam or spray, which descends in the well-known rocket-like forms of the Staubbach and similar water-falls, but multiplied a thousand times, into a small dark pool over a semi-circular curtain of precipice deeply hollowed by the action of the spray. The cavern behind the Fall is the home of thousands of swallows, which issue from it in the morning, and are seen returning in their multitude at night. The Fall itself is one vast deseending column of a fine dry-looking, snow-white substance, bearing a resemblance, in color and consistency, to the snow of an avalanche, but surpassing all avalanches I have seen in size, and in the beauty of the forms taken by the material of the Fall. Rainbows of great splendor were observed, one from the front of the Fall in the morning, one from the summit in the afternoon, but this last reverted, forming a colored loop or ring, into which the whole mass seemed to precipitate itself and disappear, and dart out underneath, black and foaming, at the gorge and outlet of COMMISSION HAT HOUSE.

COBAL

Mr. Darwin some years age prepared a map, in which were put down all the reefs of coral which surrounded the numerous islands in the Pacific. In one almost straight line of ten thousand miles, from Pitcairn Island to China, those reefs stud the vast ocean. The reefs are classified, for convenience, into three groups: 1. The atoll reef is a circular or curved ridge of coral, visible at low water, but nearly covered at high water, and having a tranquil lake in the center. The diameter varies from one to sixty miles, in different examples; and the shape is usually an irregular oval. There is generally a profound depth of ocean at a very short distance from the atoll.

In one case the depth is a thousand feet, at a distance of less than a quarter of a mile; but, far more noteworthy than this, there is one atoll at two hundred feet from which no soundings could be found with 1,200 feet of line; and another, where 7,000 feet found no bottom a mile and a quarter distant. The interior lake or lagoon is never profoundly deep. We may therefore picture to ourselves an atoll as the top of a steep conical submarine mountain, with a kind of a crater at the summit. 2. The barrier reef differs from an atoll in having one or more islands within it; it forms, in fact, a barrier around an island or islands, at some considerable SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., very deep water.

Some of them run along parallel to the shore; in some, the islands have joined to form a continuous strip of dry land; while in many instances the island forms a very lofty mountain.

3. The shore reef resembles a parrier 3. The shore reef resembles a barrier reef in having land within or near it; but the dry land is very near, and the intervening water very shallow; while in most instances there is no island or islets, the whole reef being submerged at high water. In all the three kinds—atoil, barrier and shore—the reef has been formed by countless myraids of coral insects, working at the raids of coral insects, working at the construction of their hollow dwellings.

Mr. Darwin, by tracing a local connec-tion between volcances and reefs, arriv-ed at a conclusion that, wherever an atoll or barrier reef had been formed, while at the spots where shore reefs oc-cur, the bed of the sea is either uprising or stationary.

Islands and mountains in the Pacific have been submerged by the subsidence of the ocean bed; and when the subsidence had taken place to a certain extent, coral insects set to work at their busy labors; for, whether in the Pacific or the Mediterranean, the insect always works in the water, but at no NAPKINS, TOWELINGS, &c. PLATFORM & COUNTER SCALES THTO HE HTITHE great depth below the surface. All three kinds are satisfactorily accounted for on this view, as being three stages of development. The shore reefs are formed first, as a fringe of coral round the coast of an island; by further sub-sidence, each of the latter develops into an atoll reef, by the insects constantly building at the top of it. The Pacific coral is, doubtless, as beautiful as that of the Mediterranean; but being more remote from inhabited countries it has not so much chance of being worked.— Chambers' Journal.

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