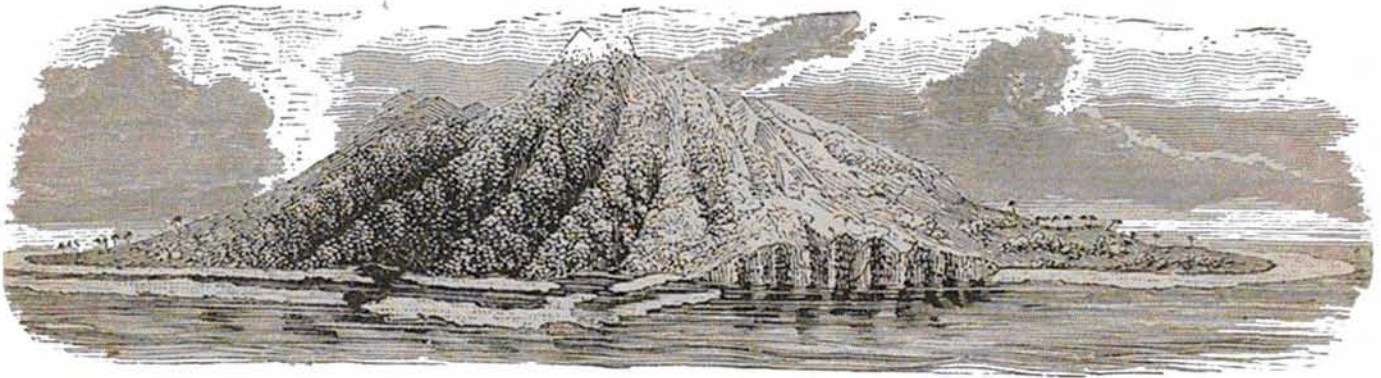


While some islands have only narrow fringing reefs, others are almost or quite surrounded by the distant barrier, which stands off like an artificial mole to protect the land from an encroaching ocean. The barrier is occasionally ten or fifteen miles from the land, and incloses not only one, but at times several, high islands. From reefs of this large size, there are all possible variations down to the simple fringing platform.

The inner channel is sometimes barely deep enough at low tide for canoes, or for long distances may be wanting entirely.



HIGH ISLAND WITH BARRIER AND FRINGING REEFS.

Then, again, it is a narrow intricate passage, obstructed by knolls or patches of coral, rendering the navigation dangerous. Again, it is for miles in length an open sea, in which ships find room to beat against a head wind with a depth of ten, twenty, or even thirty fathoms. Yet hidden reefs make caution necessary. Patches of growing corals, from a few square feet to many square miles in extent, are met with over the broad area inclosed by these distant barriers.

These varieties of form and position are well exemplified in a single group of islands—the Feejees; and the reader is referred to the chart of this Archipelago at the close of this volume.

Near the middle of the chart is the island *Goro*; its shores, excepting the western, are bordered by a fringing reef. The island *Angau*, south of *Goro*, is incircled by a coral break-water, which on the southern and western sides runs far from the shores, and is a proper barrier reef, while on the eastern