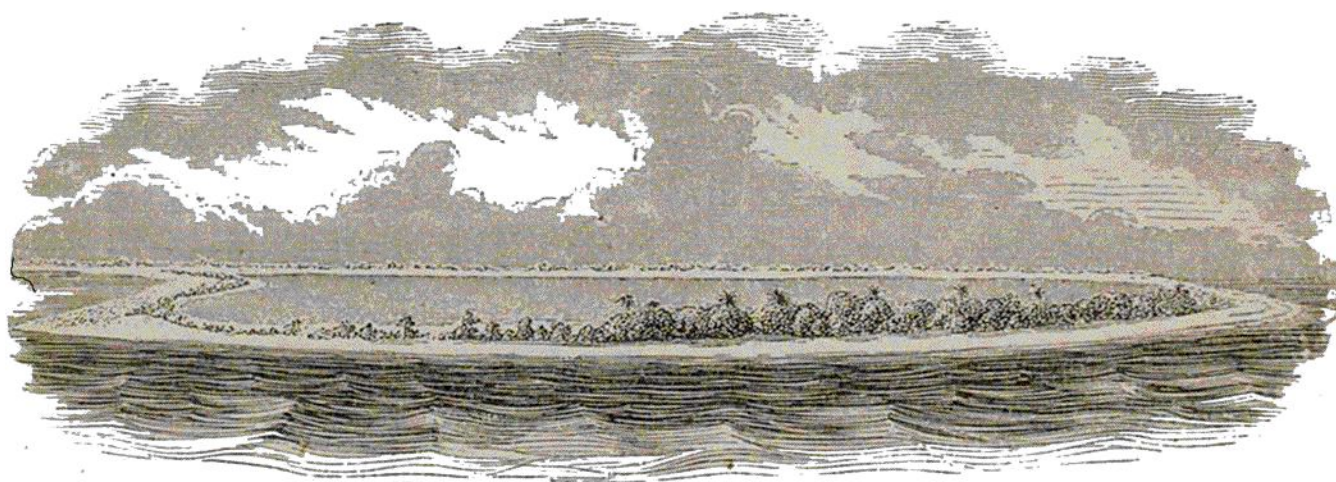


title of "Ibrahim Sultan, King of the thirteen Atollons and twelve thousand Isles" (see page 153); which Capt. W. F. W. Owen, R.N., says is no exaggeration.

In the larger atolls, the waters within look like the ocean, and are similarly roughened by the wind, though not to the same extent. Standing on the north shore of the Raraka lagoon and looking south-west, nothing is seen but blue waters. Far in the distance to the right, and also to the left, a few faint dots are observed; and as the eye sweeps around in either direction, these dots gradually enlarge and pass into lines of verdure, and, finally, distinct groves near the observer. At Dean's Island, another of the Paumotus, and at some of the Carolines, the resemblance to the ocean is still more striking.



CORAL ISLAND, OR ATOLL.

The lagoon is in fact but a fragment of the ocean cut off by more or less perfect walls of coral reef-rock; and the reef is here and there surmounted by verdure, forming a series of islets.

In many of the smaller coral islands, the lagoon has lost its ocean character, and become a shallow lake, and the green islets of the margin have coalesced in some instances into a continuous line of foliage. Traces may perhaps be still detected of the passage, or passages, over which the sea once communicated with the internal waters, though mostly concealed by the trees and shrubbery which have spread around and completed the belt of verdure. The coral island is now in its