

most finished state ; the lake rests quietly within its circle of palms, hardly ruffled by the storms that madden the surrounding ocean.

From the islands with small lagoons, there is every variety in gradation down to those in which there is no trace of a lagoon. These simple banks of coral are the smallest of coral islands. In all the larger islands the windward side is the highest ; and sometimes it is wooded and habitable throughout when the leeward reef is bare. The entrances to the lagoons are accordingly on the leeward side.

A single group of islands, the Gilbert or Kingsmill, affords good examples of the principal varieties. It is at once seen from these examples that atolls are *not annular*. In the southernmost, Tapateuea, the form is very narrow, the length being thirty-three miles, with the width of the southern portion scarcely exceeding six miles, and that of the northern more than one-half less. The emerged land is confined to one side, the eastern or windward, and consists of a series of islets upon the eastern line of coral reef. The western side is for the most part several feet under water, and there is hardly a proper lagoon. Sailing by the island, to windward, the patches of verdure, thus strung together, seem to rise out of a long white line of breakers, the sea surging violently against the unseen coral reef upon which they rest.

Nonouti, the next island north, is about twenty miles long by eight broad. The rim of land, though in fewer islets, is similar to that of Tapateuea in being confined to the reef fronting north-east. The reef of the opposite side, though bare of vegetation, stands near low-tide level, and the whole incloses a large lagoon.

Aranuka and Apamama, though smaller than Nonouti, have the same general character. Aranuka is triangular in shape, and has an islet on the western point or cape, which is quite prominent. Apamama differs from either of the preceding in having two narrow ship entrances to the lagoon, one through the north-western reef, and another through the south-western.