

Captain Hudson obtained soundings half a mile off in two hundred fathoms; the lead struck upon a sandy bottom, but was indented by coral.

Honden or *Henuake*, Paumotu Archipelago.—Size $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles by 2 miles. Oblong, five-sided; trending west-north-west. A small shallow lagoon, communicating with the sea only at high tide, on the west side. There are two other entrances which are seldom if ever covered with water, and appeared merely as dry beds of coral rock. Height of the island twelve feet: lowest on the south side. Belt of verdure complete, and consisting of large forest trees, with the Pandanus and other species, but no cocoa-nuts; its breadth half a mile, and in some parts three-fourths. Among the trees large masses of coral rock often exposed to view, and the surface in many parts very rough. It seemed surprising at all these islands that there should be so luxuriant a growth of trees and shrubbery over so rocky a surface. Shores of the lagoon nearly flat. On one side there was a large area of extremely fine coral sand and mud, which extended a long distance into the lagoon. Elsewhere about the centre of the island, the reef-rock was bare, and contained numerous shells of Tridacnæ. A few small Madreporæ still growing in the lagoon. Beach on the sea-shore side eight feet high. In lower part of beach, several layers of white limestone (the beach sand-rock), formed of coral fragments or sand, shells, &c., much of which was very compact. The layers inclined toward the sea at an angle of about six degrees. Shore platform as elsewhere in this archipelago.

The facts above stated are evidence of a slight elevation, probably not exceeding three feet.

Taiara, or *King's*, Paumotu Archipelago.— $15^{\circ} 42'$ S.; $144^{\circ} 46'$ W. $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles by $1\frac{3}{4}$, trending north-west. Has a small lagoon with no entrance. Reef almost continuously wooded around, somewhat broken into patches.

Sydney Island.—Lat. $4^{\circ} 20'$ S. Long. $171^{\circ} 15'$ W. Trends north-east and south-west. Well wooded nearly all round; but on leeward side the forest in patches, with breaks of bare coral.