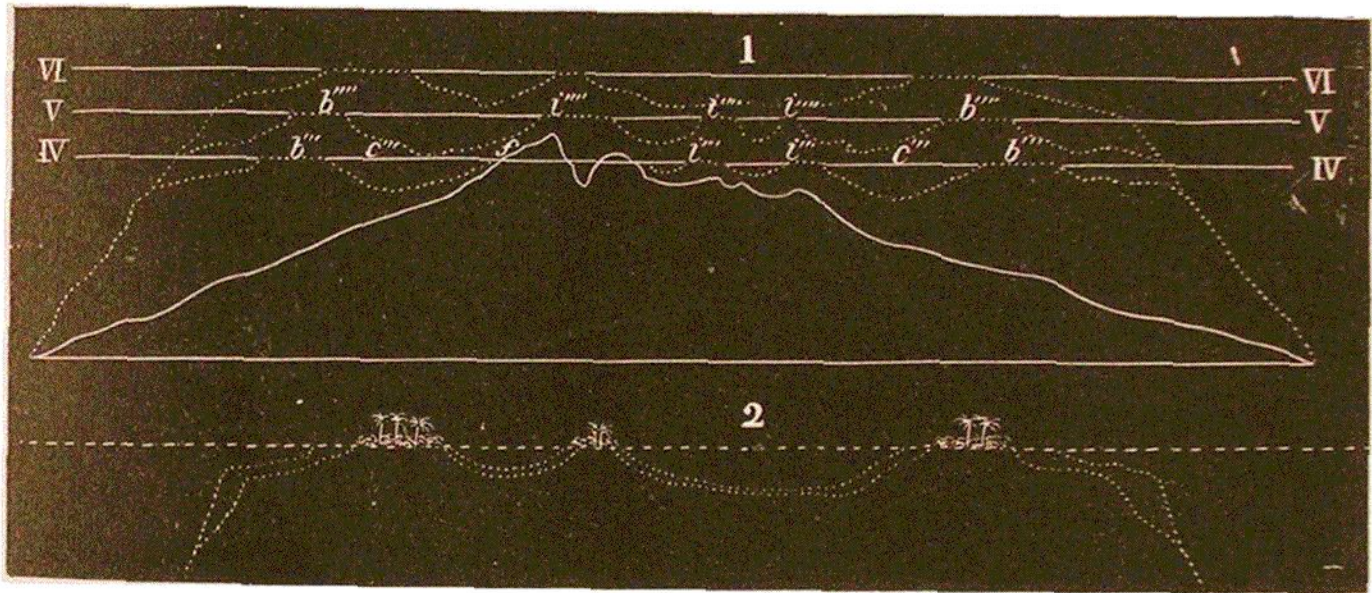


while the subsidence was still in progress, if the sinking were not beyond a certain rate.

A cessation or diminution of subsidence, in the case of the barrier reef about a high island, might result in its becoming covered with verdure like the finished atoll.

All the features of atolls harmonize completely with this view of their origin. In form they are as various and irregular as the outlines of barrier reefs. Compare Angau of the Feejees, with Tari-tari of the Gilbert Group (p. 133); Nairai or Moala with Tarawa; Nanuku with Maiana or Apamama. The resemblance is close. In the same manner we might find the many forms of lagoon reefs represented among barrier reefs.



SECTION ILLUSTRATING THE ORIGIN OF ATOLLS.

We observe, also, that the configurations are such as would be derived from land of various shapes of outline, whether a narrow mountain ridge (as in Taputeouea, one of the Gilbert Islands), or wide areas of irregular slopes and mountain ranges. Among the groups of high islands, we observe that abrupt shores may occasion the absence of a reef on one side, as on Moala; and a like interruption is found among coral islands. Many of the passages through the reefs may be thus accounted for.

The fact that the submerged reef is often much prolonged from the capes or points of a coral island, accords well with