

these views. . These points or capes correspond to points in the original land, and often to the line of the prominent ridge; and it is well known that such ridge lines often extend a long distance to sea, with slight inclination compared with the slopes or declivities bounding the ridge on either side.

Coral islands or reefs often lie in chains like the peaks of a single mountain range:—for example, the sickle-shaped line of islets north of Nanuku. Tari-tari and Makin (Gilbert Group, see map, page 133) lie together, as if belonging to parts of one island. Menchicoff atoll, in the Caroline Archipelago, consists of three long loops or lagoon islands, united



MENCHICOFF ATOLL ($\frac{1}{8}$ TH OF AN INCH TO A MILE).

by their extremities, and further subsidence might reduce it to three islands.

Darwin, in his account of the Maldives (op. cit., p. 37), points out indications of a breaking-up of a large atoll into several smaller. The land with many summits or ranges of heights may at first have had its single inclosing reef; but as it subsided, this reef, contracting upon itself, may have encircled separately the several ranges of which the island consisted, and thus several atoll reefs may have resulted in place of the large one; and, further, each peak may have finally become the basis of a separate lagoon island, under a certain rate of subsidence or variations in it, provided the outer reef were so