in the distant view, the traveller, on landing, would be greatly disappointed. But still there is enough that is strange and beautiful, both in the life of the land and sea, and in the history and features of the island, to give enjoyment for many a day.

The great obstacle to communication with a majority of atolls, especially the smaller, is the absence of an entrance to the lagoon, and hence of a good landing-place. In that case landing can be effected only on the leeward side, and in good weather; and best, when the tide is low. Even then, the sea often rolls in, so heavily, over the jagged margin of the reef, that it is necessary for the boat to take a chance to mount an in-going wave and ride upon it over the line of breakers to a stopping-place somewhere on the reef or shore-platform.

Less easy is the return through the breakers, especially if the sea has risen during the ramble ashore. The boat, in order to get off again, would naturally take one of the narrow channels or inlets indenting the margin of the reef. But, with the waves tumbling in one after another, roughly lifting and dropping it as they pass, and with barely room between the rocks for the oars to be used, there is a fair chance of its being dashed against the reefs to its destruction, or thrown broadside to the sea and swamped under a cataract of waters. If another boat with its crew were lying at the time off the reef, a line, carried to it through the surf by an expert swimmer, might prove a means of rescue:—and so, in 1840, we safely reached our ship. To those approaching such a shore in a boat, prudence would give the advice—first, drop, some distance outside of the breakers, a kedge or anchor, for aid both in landing on and leaving the reef. But the bottom of a coral island is often bad anchoring ground. And then, if the kedge thus planted holds firm, in spite of the jerking waves, well and good. If not——.

Bowditch or Fakaafo island is the easternmost of three small atolls, situated to the north of the Samoan or Navigator Group, near the parallels of $8\frac{1}{2}°$, 9°, and $9\frac{1}{2}°$ S., and between the meridians of 171° and $172\frac{1}{2}°$ W., and has already been described