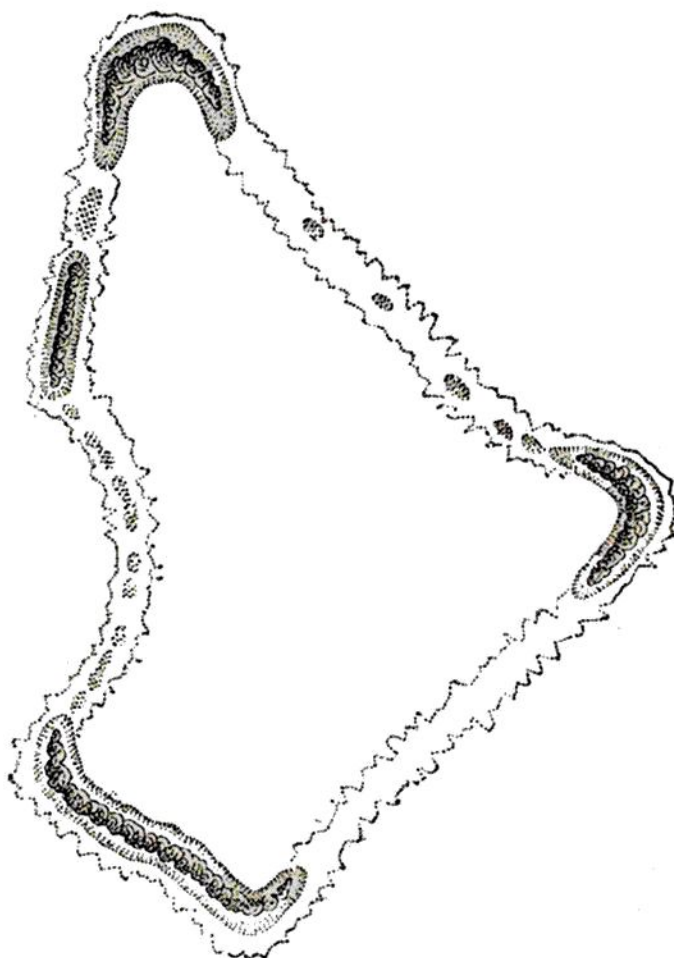


(p. 135). The grove of cocoanut-trees contains the sacred or public house of the island—a well-made structure measuring fifty feet by thirty-five in length and breadth, and twenty feet in height. In front of the building stands the deity of the place, consisting of a block of stone fourteen feet high, enveloped in mats; and also near by, a smaller idol, partially covered with matting. In the left corner there is a young cocoanut palm—usually a more beautiful object than the full-grown tree.



FAKAAFU, OR BOWDITCH ISLAND.

This island and the two others near it were among the few, perhaps the last, examples that remained until 1840, of Pacific lands never before visited by the white man. The people therefore were in that purely savage state which Captain Cook found almost universal through the ocean in the latter part of last century. A few words respecting our reception at this coral island may not, therefore, be an improper digression.