

emerging coral débris over the reef, there are the *Portulaccæ* (species of purslane); the *Triumfetta procumbens*, a creeping yellow-flowering plant of the Tilia family; the *Tournefortia sericea*, a low, hoary shrub, of the family Boraginaceæ, and *Scaevola Konigii*, a sub-fleshy seashore plant.

On Rose Island, just east of the Navigator Group, Dr. C. Pickering, of the Wilkes Exploring Expedition, found only a species of *Pisonia* and of *Portulacca*. This is a small atoll, under water at high-tide, excepting two banks, one of which is covered with trees.

In the Marshall Group, on the contrary, where the vegetation is more varied, and the islands have probably undergone some elevation since they were made, Chamisso observed fifty-two species of land-plants, and in a few instances the banana, taro, and bread-fruit were cultivated. At the elevated coral island, Metia, north of Tahiti (p. 157), 250 feet above the sea, sugar-cane and bread-fruit, and many plants of the Society Group, occur.

Water is to be found commonly in sufficient quantities for the use of the natives, although the land is so low and flat. They dig wells five to ten feet deep in any part of the dry islets, and generally obtain a constant supply. These wells are sometimes fenced around with special care; and the houses of the villagers, as at Fakaafo, are often clustered about them. On Aratica (Carlshoff) there is a watering place 50 feet in diameter, from which vessels of the Wilkes Exploring Expedition obtained 390 gallons. The Gilbert Islands are generally provided with a supply sufficient for bathing, and each native takes his morning bath in fresh water, which is esteemed by them a great luxury. On Tari-tari (of the Gilbert Group, p. 133), as Mr. Horatio Hale, philologist of the same expedition, was informed by a Scotch sailor by the name of Grey, taken from the island, there is a trench or canal several miles long, and two feet deep. They have *taro* plantations (which is possible only where there is a large supply of water), and besides some bread-fruit. He spoke of the taro as growing to a very large size, and as being