

in great abundance; it was planted along each side of the pond. Grey added further, that ten ships of the line might water there, though the place was not reached without some difficulty. There were fish in the pond, which had been put in while young. The bottom was adhesive, like clay. These islands have been elevated a little, but are not over fifteen feet above the sea.

Kotzebue observes, that "in the inner part of Otdia (one of the Marshall Islands), there is a lake of sweet water; and in Tabual, of the Group Aur, a marshy ground exists. There is no want of fresh water in the larger islands; it rises in abundance in the pits dug for the purpose."—*Voyage*, London, 1821, iii. 145.

The island of Quiros, or Gente-Hermosa, has, according to S. J. Whitnell, a *fresh-water* lagoon, only slightly brackish, about three miles in diameter. He states that the connection between the lagoon and the sea must have been closed at a comparatively recent date; its level is unaffected by the tides. There is a fresh-water lagoon also, according to the same authority, in the neighbouring island of Lakena.

The only source of this water is the rains, which, percolating through the loose sands, settle upon the hardened coral rock that forms the basis of the island. As the soil is white, or nearly so, it receives heat but slowly, and there is consequently but little evaporation of the water that is once absorbed.

Water is sometimes obtained by making a large cavity in the body of a cocoanut tree, two feet or so from the ground. At the Duke of York's Island, and probably also at the adjacent Bowditch Island, this method is put in practice; the cavities hold five or six gallons of water.

The tropical birds of the islands are often more in keeping with the beautiful scenery about them than the savage inhabitants. On one atoll—Honden Island, of the Paumotus, where no natives had ever dwelt—the birds were so innocent of fear, that we took them from the trees as we would fruit, and many a songster lost a tail-feather, as it sat perched on a branch,