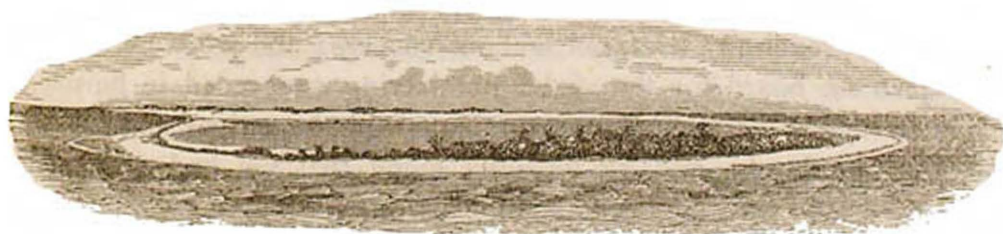


of the 9th, 10th, and 11th, were cloudy. On the former we had much lightning, thunder, and rain, with squalls from the southwest.

On the 12th, Corporal Alexander Ogle, of the marines, died of inflammation of the brain. He was a valuable man, and had been promoted for his good conduct. He possessed the confidence of his officers, and the esteem of his corps. In the afternoon all hands were called to bury the dead, and his body was committed to the deep, the usual ceremonies being performed by the chaplain, and the vessels of the squadron having their colours at half-mast.

On the 13th of August, at five o'clock, P. M., we made Clermont de Tonnerre, or Minerva Island, and by careful observations the next day, found its southeast point to be in longitude $136^{\circ} 21' 12''$ W., latitude $18^{\circ} 32' 49''$ S. Clermont de Tonnerre, being the first low coral island we had met, naturally excited a great deal of interest. We had pictured them to ourselves as being a kind of fairy-land, and therefore looked for them with some anxiety. At first sight the island appeared much like a fleet of vessels at anchor, nothing but the trees being seen in the distance, and as the ship rises and sinks with the swell of the ocean, these are alternately seen and lost sight of. On a nearer approach, the whole white beach was distinctly seen, constituting a narrow belt of land, of a light clay colour, rising up out of the deep ocean, the surf breaking on its coral reefs, surrounding a lagoon of a



beautiful blue tint, and perfectly smooth. This island was twelve feet above the level of the sea, and six hundred feet wide to its lagoon, and is composed of coral debris and vegetable matter. The shrubs are few, and not more than from twelve to fifteen feet high; the Coconut palms and Pandanus, showing conspicuously above them. We found it, by our survey, to be ten miles long, by one and a half wide, lying in a west-northwest and east-southeast direction. The first sounding, on the east side of the island, at three hundred feet from the reef, was obtained in ninety fathoms (coral sand); at one hundred and eighty feet, eighty-five fathoms (coral sand); at one hundred and