

All the naturalists were sent on shore, with as many of the officers as could be spared from duty. We landed near what the natives called their village. This consisted of one or two huts, built in a grove of large trees, consisting principally of *Pisonias*, fifty or sixty feet in height. Some of these had been felled (with a small hatchet, of which they possessed only one,) to build canoes. It is principally used for cut-riggers, being light and durable, and well adapted for that purpose. We found two canoes partly dug out. The woods were quite thick and forest-like. The inhabitants of the village consisted of four men, two women, a dog, and a cat; the remainder of the inhabitants live on the northeast side. The lagoon abounds with fish, and has several small coral knolls in it, though none with much vegetation on them. This is the most elevated of the low coral islands we had yet met with.

It has a deep entrance into its lagoon, on the west side.

The same formation presents itself here, of three distinct shelves: the one submerged, narrow, and shelving rapidly, the other broad, level, and covered at high water, but quite bare at low, and having the same longitudinal cracks in it. On the upper one is the usual accumulation of coral debris and sand, on which the vegetation grows.

On the lagoon side the beach slopes gradually, and there is seldom found any decided break, from which to judge of the thickness of the coral shelf. On the upper shelf, some large compact coral blocks are found. One of these, which I measured, was ten by twenty feet. It rested upon two small fragments, the remainder having been gradually worn away by the washing of the sea; it seemed, in fact, to be a part of that forming the second or upper shelf of coral. The following wood-cut comprises several that were seen on the coral islands, and will give an idea of their shapes. The highest point of the island was twelve feet above low-water mark.



CORAL BLOCKS.

The fresh water is procured from a large pool, about fifty feet in