



cliff appeared worn into caverns. We landed close in its neighbourhood, and on measuring its height, it proved to be two hundred and fifty feet. The coral shelf was found to be five hundred feet in width, extending on the north side of the island, and gradually diminishing in width until it loses itself at the western end. This island has all the features that one would naturally be led to expect from a low island uplifted. The north, east, and west sides present a perpendicular cliff or wall, but this character does not prevail on the south side, although it has some high knolls. The north ridge is nearly level, and there is a break through it (by which we ascended to its top) very much like the opening of a lagoon. The north side is concave, and there is found within the indentations between its two points, an extensive inclined plane, composed of large masses of limestone and vegetable mould, on which the village is situated, in a luxuriant grove of bread-fruit, cocoa-nut, pandanus, and other trees, similar to those already spoken of, as seen on the other islands. There were several copious springs, but the natives informed me that there were no running streams on the island.

The natives all seemed delighted to see us, crowding around my boat, and assisting to haul it up; men, women, and children flocked around us; all the population were gathered, to the number of about three hundred and fifty. We were at once invited to the chief's and native missionary's house, situated in the centre of the village. The house was constructed of the bread-fruit wood, for a frame, and reeds of the wild sugar-cane for the uprights, with interstices for the passage of the air, and lining of mats to exclude it when required. It was well thatched, and the whole had a cool and comfortable appearance. Cocoa-nuts were soon brought us, and all our questions were answered with an alacrity and pleasure that showed their strong desire to oblige and assist us.

The natives had gathered in crowds around the door to look at us.