Fakaafo, or Bowditch (Fig. 5), 200 miles north of the Navigator Islands, is the type of a large part of coral islands. The bank of reef has only here and there emerged from the waves and become verdant; in other portions the reef is of the usual height,—that is, near low-tide level,—excepting a few spots elevated a little by the accumulation of sand.

The Paumotu Archipelago, the crowded cluster of coral islands east and north-east of Tahiti, is a most instructive study for the reader; and a map of these islands by the Wilkes Exploring Expedition, inserted in the Narrative of the Expedition, and also in the Hydrographical Atlas, will well repay close examination. Sailing among these islands, over eighty in number,—only four of which are over twelve feet high exclusive of the vegetation,—two or three are almost constantly in sight from the mast-head.

The small amount of habitable land on these reef-islands is one of their most peculiar features. Nearly the whole surface is water; and the land around the lagoon is but a narrow rim, the greater part of which is usually under water at high tide. This fact will be rendered more apparent from the following table, containing a statement of the sizes and areas of several islands, with the amount of habitable land. The measures are given in geographical miles.

	LENGTH.	GREATEST BREADTH.	AREA IN SQ. MILES.	HABITABLE PARTS IN SQ. MILES.
Carlshoff, Paumotus	27	13	200	10
Wolchonsky ,,	15	3	40	3
Raraka ,,	15	10	90	8
Manhii ,,	14	6½	50	9
Nairsa or Deans, Paumotus	50	19	1,000	16
Fakaafo, Union group	7½	4½	20	2½
Duke of Clarence ,,	8½	5½	27	2
Tapateuea, Kingsmills	33	6	60	6
Tarawa ,,	20	10	130	8
Nonouti ,,	22	9	125	7
Tari-tari ,,	18	11	110	4

The ten islands here enumerated have an aggregate area of 1,852 square miles, while the amount of actual dry habitable