appear to be *solid masses of compact limestone, in which nothing like a cell can be detected.*"

Beechey, in his description of Henderson Island, another of this character, speaks of the rock as *compact, and having the fracture of a secondary limestone.*

The surface of the island is singularly rough, owing to erosion by rains. The paths that cross it wind through narrow passages among ragged needles and ridges of rock as high as the head, the peaks and narrow defiles forming a miniature model of the grandest Alpine scenery. There is but little soil, yet the island is covered with trees and shrubbery.

The shores of the first elevation of the island must have been worn away to a large extent by the sea ; and the cliff and some isolated pinnacles of coral rock still standing on the coast are evidence of the degradation. But at present there is a wide shore-platform of coral reef, two hundred or two hundred and fifty feet wide, resembling that of the low coral islands, and having growing coral, as usual, about its margin and in the shallow depths beyond.

In the face of the cliff there are two horizontal lines, along which cavities or caverns are most frequent, which consequently give an appearance of stratification to the rock, dividing it into three nearly equal layers.

We might continue this account of coral reefs and islands by particular descriptions of others in the Pacific. But the similarity among them is so great, and their peculiarities are already so fully detailed, that this would amount only to a succession of repetitions. The characters of a few, briefly stated, will suffice in this place :—

Jarvis's Island.—(Fig. 3, page 135.) Lat. 0° 22′ S. ; Long. 159° 58′ W. Two miles long by one mile wide, and trending east and west. No lagoon, but a basin-like depression over its interior, which at bottom is seven or eight feet above the sea, and in which the lagoon once existed ; old beach lines are distinguishable in it. Its surface is a low sandy flat, eighteen or twenty feet high, without trees, and partly covered with