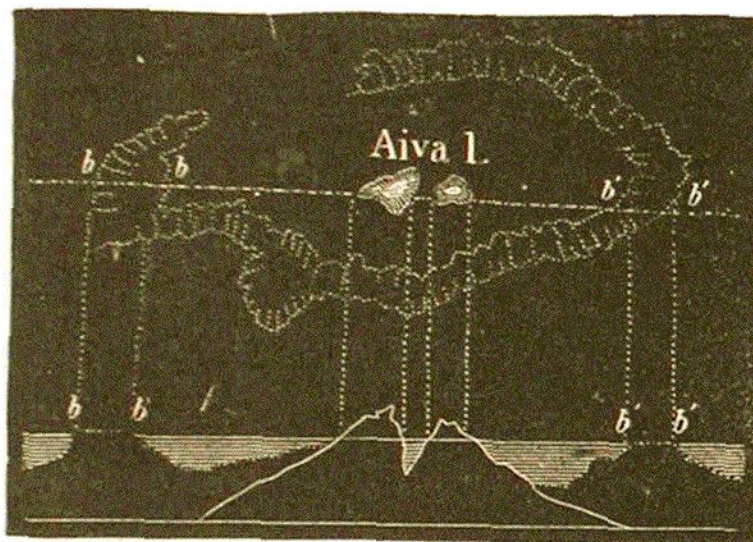


and although we have no soundings of the waters in and about it, nor sketches of peaks, facts observed elsewhere authorize in every essential point the transverse section here given, which resembles closely, as is apparent, the preceding. The section is made through the line *bb*, *b' b'*, of the map. It is unnecessary to add other illustrations. They may be made out from any of the eastern groups of the Feejees, the Gambier Group of the Paumotus, or Hogoleu in the Carolines. Wallis's Island is another example of islets of rock in a large lagoon inclosed by a distant barrier.

It has been asked, why the interior channels do not become filled by coral reef, as the island sinks, and thus a plane of coral



MAP, AND IDEAL SECTION, OF AIVA ISLAND.

result, instead of a narrow belt ; and this has been urged against the theory. But it is a sufficient reply to such an argument to state the fact that the subsidence admits of no doubt, and that the islands referred to as exemplifications of it, present this very peculiarity. It should be received therefore, as a consequence of it, instead of an objection to the view, for it is the most common feature with all islands that have broad reef-grounds, or in other words, that show evidence of subsidence during the growth of the reefs. Broad channels, and even open seas within, as in Nanuku and the Exploring Isles, are therefore to be received as results of the subsidence, for which explanations should be sought.