

As already mentioned (p. 491), the formation of coral-islands has been explained by Darwin on the hypothesis of

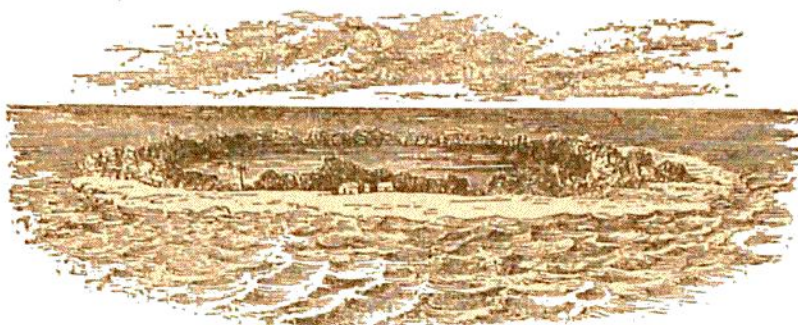


Fig. 182.—View of an Atoll or Coral-Island.

a subsidence of the sea-floor. The circular islands, or atolls, rising in mid-ocean, have the general aspect shown in Fig.

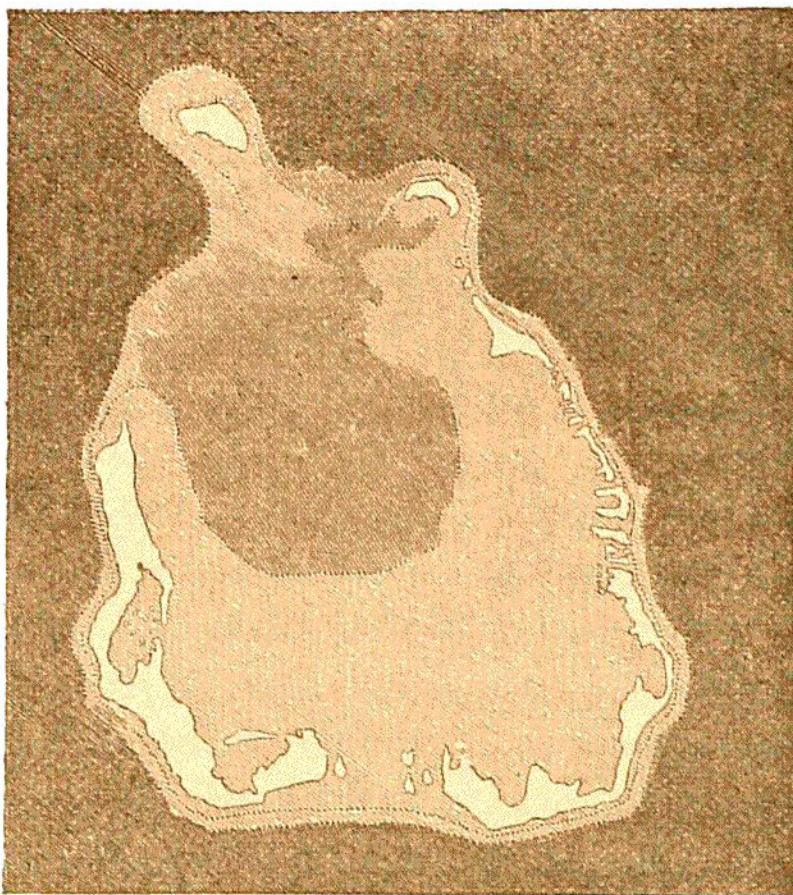


Fig. 183.—Chart of Keeling Atoll, Indian Ocean (after Darwin).

The white portion represents the reef above sea-level, the inner shaded space the lagoon, of which the deepest portion is marked by the darker tint.

182. Their external form may be understood from the chart (Fig. 183), and their structure and the character of their sur-

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opicalcites of the crystalline schists. Sollas, Proc. Royal Dublin Soc. 1891, p. 124.