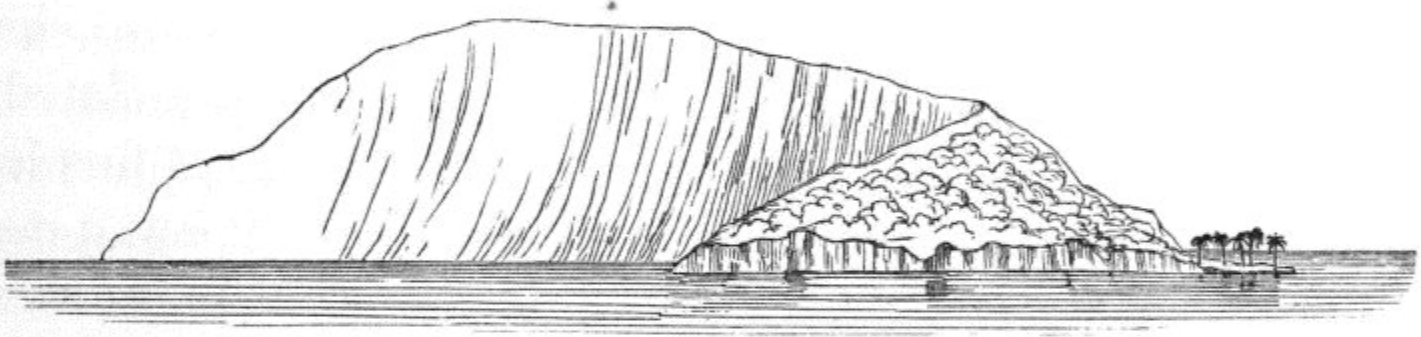


Nuutele, represented in the following sketch, preserves most nearly its original crater shape. Two-thirds of the old crater yet stand, though much worn by the rains and sea. The island is a large amphitheatre,



NUUTELE, AS SEEN FROM THE NORTHWEST.

near five hundred feet high, opening to the northeast. Within the horns of the crescent, the land has a steep but even slope on all sides, and is densely wooded. A coral beach, and, beyond it, a native village under its cocoanut trees, lie at the head of the bay. On the outside the sea washes against a naked cliff or precipice, which extends to the summit of the ridge. All the exterior slopes of the once



NUUTELE, AS SEEN FROM THE SOUTHEAST.

regular cone have been carried off by the sea, and only a narrow ridge, curving round in a crescent shape, remains. The present breadth of the island is three-fourths of a mile. In the face of the cliff, the stratification of the tufa and its structure are well exposed for examination. We trace with beautiful distinctness the many overlapping layers, and the varying directions and curvings of the lines that stripe the bold and naked bluff,—evidence of the successive depositions in the course of its formation. The dip is, in all instances, large, generally between twenty and thirty degrees. The stratification is very distinct, and, although the layers average a foot in thickness, we may often distinguish a subdivision into laminæ but a fraction of an inch thick.

The other islands are like Nuutele in the stratification of the tufa, and show equally well the inclined layers in the face of the bluffs. They have suffered so extensive degradations from the sea, that we scarcely trace any resemblance to the original craters: only a small