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great variety of the permanent residents of the island, the few others are Catholics and Jesuits. The Saints are engaged in erecting one of the finest Churches in the Pacific. The coral rock walls were completed in September last and were now building for the roof. The building is of the same material as the others, with a high to the square. Meetings are now held in a smaller house, built in native fashion, and the same material.

The islands and atolls in the Pacific ocean are interesting of classification as three well marked types. The first is the fringing reef, the second, the piled coral island, and the third, the high mountain island. Darwin has formulated the following theory of the formation of atolls and raised coral islands. During the long ages past, and possibly even now, the Pacific Ocean has been sinking. The reef-building polyps raised its great platform on the sinking floor, and at the same time the sinking, emerging fringes. The continued movement ended in the formation of an island, the mountains buried beneath the waters of the lagoon which it enclosed. In the type of the mountains, as they sank, the fringing reef was raised and pressed to build, burning the rock points of greater or less extent characteristic of the type. The fringing reef was continued to the Darwin theory. In the early stage with a shallow lagoon gradually filled with coral debris, and as the sinking continued, the reef was raised until a solid island, never exceeding 100 to 200 feet at its highest point, was the result. These deposits were compacted, and the sinking movement continued at a greater depth than before, so that finally only in water or at low tide, the island was visible. The island must have solid rock foundation for its silent home. But modern geology disputes the Darwin theory of coral islands, and the sinking movement is attributed through the researches of Mr. John Murray, naturalist of the British government, and his colleagues, to the action of the sea by subsequent discoveries made by others. The new theory it held to meet the unexplained facts mentioned by Darwin, and I have no scientific works by me treating upon this matter. I am unable to explain the theory to the readers of this paper.

The name still is of Maldivian origin. According to a book written by H. O. Reade, a British official, and now resident of Karamba, the present name rules over the Maldivian group, is a limited "Solomon of the Indian Archipelago." The name is a Maldivian name, the title is only a mild Oriental exaggeration, each consisting of a small water lagoon and a number—strongly together at irregular intervals on the surface of the surrounding, and the lagoon which it has cut off from the surrounding ocean. Its characteristic features are the steepness and gradual rise of the island, the high level of the lagoon, flatness and low level of the island formed upon its surface. Few lagoons are less than 100 feet deep, and the islands are of the same height. The majority are much larger some being of great size. Thus the lagoon of Agava, one of the largest, is 10 miles long, and 2 to 20 miles wide. In approaching a lagoon island, it cannot be seen from a ship's deck in the clearest weather at 10 miles. Even then it is only the tops

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