

There were nineteen men counted, which would make the population about fifty souls. No women or children were seen.

At all the inhabited islands we found the greatest numbers of the common house-fly: while at Honden Island (uninhabited) none were perceived. No one can estimate the annoyance they cause, until it has been experienced.

The huts of the natives of Otooho are different from those of the neighbouring island, but quite as rude.

About three quarters of an hour after sunset, the naturalists were again on board, and we bore away on our course to Raraka. Having been informed that several islands were supposed to be in this neighbourhood, that were known to the natives, but not laid down on the charts, I determined to lie-to during the night. At daylight we again bore away, spreading the squadron in open order of sailing.

On the 29th, at daylight, land was reported, and we soon ascertained that it was not laid down on the charts. It is low, nearly of a circular form, and well covered with trees and shrubs, and has a lagoon of some extent. Its centre is in latitude  $15^{\circ} 42' 25''$  S., longitude  $144^{\circ} 38' 45''$  W. I named it King's Island, after the man at the masthead who first discovered it. After completing the survey of it, we landed on its lee side, where the water was quite smooth, and spent the afternoon in examining it. There were no natives on it, but every indication that it had been inhabited recently by a party of pearl-fishers. The lagoon appeared to be well supplied with the pearl oyster. We found on the island two small springs of fresh water, near its lagoon, and a good supply of cocoa-nuts. Many specimens of plants were obtained, and several interesting objects of natural history were added to our collections; for an account of these, the reader is referred to the reports of the naturalists.

This island had more soil on it than any yet met with, and seemed to be productive. Large quantities of cocoa-nuts were lying about in heaps, no doubt gathered by those who had visited it before us.

The magnetic observations were also made here. The width of the island to the lagoon was found to be twelve hundred feet. A very narrow reef surrounded it, and the whole island was but six feet above the sea reef. No coral blocks were seen. It lies twenty miles to the northeast of Raraka. There is no opening to the lagoon, and the island is thickly wooded all round. An old canoe was found, very much decayed and broken, and the remains of a hut on the beach.

In the morning we bore away for Raraka, and shortly afterwards made it. As we approached it, another island was discovered, to the northward and westward, which was not laid down on any charts.