

about on the coral shelf. This, where I measured it, was five hundred feet wide, but it is not of equal width in all parts. Among the coral blocks was some sand, and in many of them were found large specimens of the chama and other shells. I was informed at Raraka, that there were a few inhabitants on Vincennes Island, but none were seen by us. They were said to live on the southern end of it.

After finishing our observations, we returned on board, and made sail for Aratica, or Carlshoff Island. We arrived off it in time to secure its connexion with Vincennes Island: the distance was found, by patent log, and astronomical observations, to be twenty miles to the westward. We then stood on and off its eastern point for the night. The next morning at daylight we began its survey. The tender was despatched round its northern shore, whilst the Peacock and Vincennes took its southern side, running close along the reef, which continued submerged until near its southwestern end, which is twelve feet high and thickly wooded. On rounding the point, we saw a white flag waved by several natives on the beach. I immediately despatched a boat, with an officer, who brought off two of the principal natives, one of whom spoke a little English, and proved quite intelligent. One of these natives was tattooed only on one side, from the pubis to the sternum, bounded by broad blue bands, which divided and terminated under each ear.



NATIVE OF PAUMOTU GROUP.

He reported that there were about twenty natives on the island, and that they had frequent intercourse with vessels that had visited them. They informed me that water was to be had on the island. Finding ourselves short of this necessary article, I despatched several boats to procure it. Aratica is eight miles in length by five in breadth.