

over the western part of the island for several hours. The few natives were very friendly, and informed us that the native name of the island was Manhii. This is, in all probability, the Waterlandt of Schouten and Le Maire, and also Wilson's Island of the Duff. There is a large and deep entrance in the southeast end into the lagoon of Manhii Island, in which, the natives informed me, vessels had often anchored, whilst engaged in the pearl-fishery. Many cocoa-nut trees were seen on this island, and fresh water is to be procured from a pool on the southwest side. The island at this end is upwards of half a mile wide to the lagoon; the coral reef is here quite broad. Soundings are not to be had with one hundred fathoms of line, fifty feet from the edge of it.

There were some small compact coral rocks here and there, but no regular upper or second shelf; the lower coral shelf was three hundred feet in width, and had many long longitudinal cracks, from six to eight inches wide, resembling those seen in ice-fields. In some places these were quite deep, and in the chasms numerous shells of the chama species presented to our view their beautiful colours. Some of the gentlemen reported that they found a stone sarcophagus, or something much resembling one. We made a set of magnetic observations on this island, and many shells, plants, &c., were procured.

To our surprise, one of the men of the Peacock, by the name of Penny, here deserted from the boats. He had been formerly much among the islands, engaged in pearl-fishing, and spoke the language well. Strict search was made for him, until the officer in charge of the boats became satisfied that he had no intention of returning. On hearing of it, I was convinced that he had chosen this opportunity to leave us, particularly as he must have been aware that there is very frequent communication with Tahiti. The chief of this island informed us that he was a relative of the one-handed chief of Raraka.

The east end of the island lies in latitude $14^{\circ} 26' 22''$ S., longitude $146^{\circ} 04' 20''$ W.

Several of us had our feet severely blistered, from going barefoot on the reefs, and were made very uncomfortable from this cause. After returning on board, we bore away to the other island, to which the natives gave the name of Ahii. I have also added that of Peacock Island, to mark that its correct position was first established by the Expedition. It lies west three-fourths north per compass from Manhii, and was found by the patent log to be eight and six-tenths miles from reef to reef. On coming up with it, the Vincennes and Peacock took opposite sides, and surveyed it; and the next morning parties landed. I was hardly able to move, on account of my feet, but the desire of getting observations of the eclipse, urged me to make the attempt; I