

only succeeded in getting the last limb and good observations for time. After four o'clock, we returned on board. This island is not inhabited, and has only a small boat-entrance into its lagoon, on the west side. The coral belt is similar to that last described; it was found to be upwards of half a mile in width, and was covered with the same kind of vegetation as the last, excepting cocoa-nut trees, of which none were found on the island. The lagoon is quite shallow. A favourite fish with the natives is found in it, and at certain seasons they visit the island for the purpose of catching them. The coral shelf varied from two to five hundred feet in breadth.

Being desirous of making the examination of as many of the coral islands as possible, I now despatched the Peacock to the Arutua or Rurick Islands, with directions to examine them, and then to proceed along the south side of Dean's Island, whilst, in the Vincennes, I steered for the north side of the latter, to pass along it. We then parted company, and Dean's Island was made by us the next morning. After establishing our position, we ran along the northern shore, and reached its western point at 4 p. m. Off this point we obtained sights for our chronometers, which put it in longitude $147^{\circ} 58' 34''$ W., latitude $15^{\circ} 05' 15''$ S. During the day we passed an entrance into its lagoon, and some natives came off from a small village, in two canoes, to visit us. They acknowledged themselves subjects of Queen Pomare of Tahiti, and were very desirous we should land. They brought off a few shells, and told us they had many fowls, pigs, taro, &c. There are several islets in the lagoon covered with trees. Vast numbers of large blocks were seen lying on its reef. The shore-reef is not more than two hundred feet wide, and is composed of only one shelf. The current was tried, but none was found. We had the wind very fresh from east-by-north all day. When off the western point we discovered Krusenstern's Island to the west, and hauled up to pass between it and Nairsa. The passage was found to be twelve and two-thirds miles wide, and free from all danger. In the evening I stood for Metia Island, to the southward. Nairsa or Dean's Island was found to be sixty-six miles in length.

On the morning of the 9th of September we were in sight of Metia or Aurora Island, the north end of which is in latitude $15^{\circ} 49' 35''$ S., longitude $148^{\circ} 13' 15''$ W. It was totally different in appearance from those we had met with, though evidently of the same formation. It was a coral island uplifted, exposing its formation distinctly, and as such was very interesting. On approaching its eastern end, I sounded at about one hundred and fifty feet from its perpendicular cliff, and found no bottom with one hundred and fifty fathoms of line. The