

## CHAPTER XV.

### PAUMOTU GROUP.

1839.

ON the 13th July we had finished the necessary outfits and taken in our stores. The remainder of the latter were embarked in the store-ship Relief, which was ordered to land a part of them at the Sandwich Islands, and the rest at Sydney, New South Wales, after which to proceed to the United States by the way of Cape Horn.

We took leave of our kind friends, Edwin Bartlett, Esq., United States Charge d'Affaires, and Edward M'Call, Esq., United States Consul. To both of these gentlemen I am under many obligations for their kindness, and information in relation to the country and its affairs. Their long residence had made them familiar with those subjects; and many of the transactions they communicated had happened under their own eyes.

At 5 P. M., having a light breeze, the signal was made to get under way, and we were soon standing out of the bay under all canvass. Captain M'Keever accompanied us until we reached the point of San Lorenzo. On his taking leave, we expressed our thanks for the important aid he had rendered us, by giving him several hearty cheers.

The day after our departure, we fell in with a Peruvian brig, from San Blas, in want of water, which we supplied. She had fallen to leeward of her port, and her people were reduced to much distress for want of that necessary article.

I had felt much anxiety lest the small-pox should make its appearance among us, and looked forward daily with apprehension to the hour when the sick reports were made. On the 14th my worst fears were realized, for the Peacock made signal that they had a case of that disease on board. It fortunately proved of a mild type, and no