

conduct heretofore, and trusts that he will not have to regret the confidence he reposes in them.

Any acts inconsistent with these views, will meet with the most exemplary punishment.

(Signed)

CHARLES WILKES,  
Commanding Exploring Expedition.

July 13th, 1839.

United States Ship Vincennes.

I had determined, on leaving Callao, to take up the examination of the Paumotu Group, recommended to the Expedition by that distinguished navigator and promoter of science, Admiral Krusenstern, whose notes were made a part of my instructions, and have been already referred to in Appendix V. I therefore steered for the island of Minerva, or Clermont de Tonnerre, one of the most eastern of the Paumotu Group, or Cloud of Islands, as the name implies. I deemed this to be the most interesting point at which to begin our surveys, and the researches of our naturalists, particularly as it was inhabited, and would thus enable us to trace the inhabitants from one end of Polynesia to the other, across the Pacific. At the same time, it afforded a very desirable point for magnetic observations, and a visit to it would also enable me to settle a dispute between the two distinguished English and French navigators, Captains Beechey and Duperrey, relative to its geographical position. The longitude adopted for Callao, from which our measurements were made, was  $79^{\circ} 11' 10''$  W. This I found to correspond well with that of Valparaiso, the meridian distance between the two being  $5^{\circ} 31' 50''$ .

On the 14th we found the current setting to the northwest-by-west three quarters of a mile per hour.

The 15th, at one hundred and twenty miles from the land, we had changed the temperature of the surface to  $67^{\circ}$ , being a difference of  $7^{\circ}$ . At three hundred fathoms depth, it was found to be  $51^{\circ}$ . This day the current was found setting south-half-east, half a mile per hour.

The 16th brought several showers of rain, the first we had experienced since the 8th of June, off Valparaiso. Here we again tried the current, but found none. I now continued the usual experiments on the deep-sea temperature, dips, variation, currents, the visibility of a white object in water, and the dip of the horizon, for which I must refer the reader to the tabular results, only mentioning such as are generally interesting.

On the 18th, the surface water was  $70^{\circ}$ , and at two hundred and ninety fathoms depth,  $50^{\circ}$ .

On the 24th, in longitude  $99^{\circ} 39' W.$ , we found the current setting