

always given them when they went on board ship; and the chief wanted some, for he was very sick. I accordingly ordered a bottle of water with a gill of whiskey in it to be given them, and the moment they smelt it their manner was changed; they became all animation, and left the ship in great good humour. Mr. Waldron presented them with two sheep, of which they appeared very proud. The brother was quite an intelligent native; he drew for me with a piece of chalk, on the deck, with considerable accuracy, all the islands he was acquainted with, giving their relative situations, and the native names;—that of the island we had seen the day before, as Tai-a-ra, and the one to which I had given the name of Vincennes Island, as Kawahe. He informed me of three small islands to the southward of Sacken, which were afterwards found by the Porpoise, during the cruise to this group on which I sent her in 1840; his knowledge of the western part of this group was quite surprising.

On the next day we landed early, and passed the whole of it on shore, making observations. We found this was taboo-day, or their Sabbath, although it was Saturday with us; and all the natives seemed to be enjoying its quiet and repose. Few of them were to be seen, and they exhibited but little curiosity. No persuasion could induce them to employ themselves in getting fish and shells for us on this day. We obtained a full set of observations to determine the position, and also those for magnetic results. I place the entrance to the lagoon of Raraka in longitude $144^{\circ} 57' 40''$ W., latitude $16^{\circ} 06' 25''$ S. The result of our day's observations gave the tides, at full and change of the moon, two o'clock, and three feet in height; the shore, however, showed that there were at times very high tides. The natives said, when it was a round moon they had very high water.

The entrance to the lagoon is on the north side of the island, about one-third of its length from the western end. It is a narrow passage, but will admit a small vessel. The current runs very strong out of the lagoon, so much so, that a boat cannot be pulled against it. The water in the entrance is from five to eight fathoms deep, but there is no advantage in entering, as the reef is quite as steep within. A small vessel may anchor on the outside, in ten fathoms, close to the shore. This island is nearly of the shape of an equilateral triangle, and its southern and eastern sides are formed by a submerged reef. It is fifteen miles on each side.

The chief, on our second visit, was at first not altogether free from alarm at the sight of so many persons on shore; but each one bringing himself, his wife, or people, some small present, soon reconciled him to their presence. Among the sailors he contrived to get some grog