

diameter, and of considerable depth; it is about half a mile from the village, to the north, and situated within the line of woods. Watering is very troublesome and fatiguing when the boats are outside, and it is necessary to transport it a long distance; but having leathern watering-bags, it was less difficult for us. By entering the lagoon through the opening, the boats could approach very near the pool. There would be some difficulty in passing into it when the tide is setting out. It was reported that there was enough water to supply the squadron. The water was thought by some to be a little brackish, but it was found quite potable.

Many botanical specimens were obtained here, similar to those collected on the other islands; also several birds, a harmless scorpion, and lizards, the same as found on the other islands.

The reefs were covered with *Holothuria* and some *Biche-de-mar*, but none of the valuable kinds; we also obtained a large number of shells. The fish here are said to be poisonous; but the natives, we understood, eat some of the kinds, so that the remark does not apply to the whole. The position of the west point of the island was determined to be in longitude $145^{\circ} 39' 46''$ W., and latitude $15^{\circ} 26'$ S.

Having obtained all the water we could in the afternoon, amounting to three hundred and ninety gallons, I directed the course of the squadron to the northward and eastward, towards King George's Group, having fresh breezes from the east-northeast. The next day at noon, the most southern island was in sight, and finding the ships could not make it without much loss of time, I despatched the tender to the group, with orders to circumnavigate and examine the islands, and then to follow us to Tahiti; whilst the *Vincennes* and *Peacock* bore away to the westward, for the doubtful island of Waterlandt. At 5 P. M. it was discovered from the masthead, and at six from the fore-yard, bearing northwest-by-north.

We stood on and off all night, and at daylight again made the land; we reached its north point at four o'clock P. M., when the *Peacock* was ordered to take the east, whilst the *Vincennes* took the west side; we continued the survey until dark, when we took the necessary angles to resume the work in the morning. Many natives were seen, and smoke was rising in several places. On the 6th of September, we continued our surveying operations, and shortly afterwards joined the *Peacock*, Captain Hudson having completed his side of the island. The *Peacock* now made the signal of land to the westward. Wishing to land and make an examination of this island, as well as to have communication with the natives, the boats were lowered, and the naturalists from both vessels, and many officers, landed, and rambled