

CHAPTER II.

TAHITI AND EIMEO.

1839.

THE Porpoise, having been refitted, was sent to sea on the 20th September, for the purpose of again visiting the west end of Nairisa or Dean's Island, with Krusenstern's and Lazareff. She was also ordered to pass over the supposed locality of Recreation Island, and then to meet the Vincennes at Rose Island, the easternmost of the Samoan or Navigator's Group.*

A stormy evening having occurred previous to our leaving Matavai Bay, "Jim," the pilot, desired to see me; on his coming into the cabin, to my great amusement, he urged me to allow him to go to Papieti, where he was sure he would be wanted; and when I asked for what purpose, he told me that the "thunder and lightning would bring in ships of war." He was displeased when I laughed and said, that as he was engaged on board my ship, I would wait until I saw the ships before I could give him permission. He then reminded me of the night before we arrived, when there was plenty of thunder and lightning, and that he had told me as soon as he came on board that he expected us. He went on to repeat that he was sure that they would want him early in the morning at Papieti, but I persisted in my refusal; and in the morning he appeared much disconcerted to find that there was nothing in sight out of which he could make a ship of war.

The surveys of the four harbours of Matavai, Papaoa, Toanoa, and Papieti, had been, as stated in the preceding chapter, commenced soon after our arrival; they had made considerable progress before the

* A copy of the orders will be found in Appendix III.