

## CHAPTER III.

### TUTUILA.

1839.

ON the 29th of September, at daylight, having the wind from the northward and eastward, we got under way, and made sail to the westward, passing the Society Island Group: viz., Sir Charles Saunders' Isle, Huaheine, Tahaa, Borabora, Maufili, and Moutoiti. All of these, with the exception of the last, are high lands.

On the 30th, we made Bellinghausen's Island, which is a low coral island, similar to those which have been already described. It was uninhabited, and is of a triangular form, with the usual vegetation, with the exception of cocoa-nut palms. We landed upon it, and made the magnetic experiments.

Birds were in great plenty, and as tame as we had found them at other uninhabited islands we had visited. No lizards or rats were observed, nor was the common fly seen. The lagoon had no passage into it at low water, but the tide flowed into it over the reef.

During the time of our stay on the island, the tide rose and fell upwards of two feet, and it was high water at 8 A. M. Many specimens of fish were obtained here, of which the department of Natural History will treat.

In the afternoon, we again made sail to the westward, for Rose Island, and on the 6th of October, we passed near the locality of the Royal George Shoal, but saw nothing of it.

On the 7th, which was the day appointed for our rendezvous off Rose Island, we came in sight of it, and at the same time descried the Porpoise. That vessel had passed by Nairsa or Dean's Island, and connected the survey of it with that of Krusenstern's and Lazareff. Both of these were found to have entrances into their lagoons; they