

are uninhabited, though occasionally visited by the natives of Nairsa Island. The position of Recreation Island was passed over, but no signs of land discovered.

Rose Island, the most eastern of the Samoan Group, was discovered by Freycinet, who gave it its name. It appears, at first, like a round knoll of land, but on a nearer approach, this is found to arise from a large clump of *Pisonia* trees, similar to those found growing in the low archipelago. It is a low annular coral island, of small dimensions, inundated at high water, with the exception of two small banks, one of which is entirely covered by the clump of trees. The other is formed of dead coral, without any vegetation. The tide was found here to rise about four and a half feet, the flood setting to the eastward. The breakers on its weather or southeast side are heavy; and there is an entrance into the lagoon, having four fathoms depth of water through it. The lagoon has from six to twelve fathoms in it. A remarkable coral formation, like a submerged tree, thirty feet in diameter over its top, was found in the centre of the lagoon, rising to the level of low water, and having all around it a depth of six fathoms. The currents set regularly out and in to the lagoon, according to the state of the tide. In stormy weather the sea must make a complete breach over the reef.

Some boulders of vesicular lava were seen on the coral reef; they were from twenty to two hundred pounds weight, and were found among blocks of coral conglomerate.

Birds were seen flying over the island, and on landing we found them in great numbers and very tame. The frigate-birds, and boobies (*sula*), whose nests had before been observed on low bushes, were here found on the tops of trees fifty feet high. The noddies laid their eggs on the parts of the island destitute of vegetation. Tern were in great numbers; their breeding-place was in a thicket on the weather side of the island, or that which was exposed to the wind and sea, and was remarkable from the regularity with which the eggs were placed, about three feet apart, without any nest, and, with but few exceptions, out of many thousands, each egg lay separately. The colour of the eggs is a dirty white, mottled with brown. The noise made by these birds when disturbed was almost deafening; but on making a loud sound, such as the firing of a gun, their cries would cease for a moment or two, producing a singular stillness.

Several small turtles, similar to those seen at Honden Island, were observed here. One of them was taken, but its flesh proved coarse, and was drier than that of the green turtle: they feed upon a species of fucus that grows upon the reefs. Here we made observations for intensity and dip.