

On the 7th, we left Rose Island and stood to the westward, making at sunrise the island of Manua, which is two thousand five hundred feet above the level of the sea. It has the form of a regular dome, rising in most places precipitously from the water to the height of three or four hundred feet, after which its ascent appears more gentle and even. It is sixteen miles in circumference, is well covered with a luxuriant vegetation, and has many cocoa-nut groves on its northwest side.

On approaching it, Oloosinga was in sight, and shortly after Ofoo. These two islands lie to the northwestward, at the distance of about four miles.

The boats were lowered, and sent to trace the shores of the island of Manua, for the purpose of surveying it; whilst the Vincennes and the Porpoise passed on each side.

This island is inhabited. The principal settlement is on the northwest side, and there is anchorage for a small vessel near the shore, where there is a cove to land in, with but little surf during the fine season, or from April to November. It has a shore-reef of coral, and the soundings extend off some distance, eight fathoms being found four hundred yards from the shore.

Some large blocks of vesicular lava were seen on its northeast point, but the general structure was a conglomerate of a drab colour, in horizontal strata; yet the beach was of light-coloured sand, formed by a mixture of coral and shells.

Our arrival off Manua was opportune. According to the statement of one of the brothers of the king, who spoke a little English, hostilities had been threatened between the "missionary" party, and the "devil's men." A native missionary, resident in the island, had already prevented a battle, by telling them that if they wished to fight with each other they must first kill him. Through his influence and exemplary conduct, peace had hitherto been preserved. It was stated that several "very bad" white men were on the island, and that they made "plenty of fight;" but that on seeing "mannawa" (man-of-war), they had gone into the "bush."

Eight of these men had deserted from an English whaler, whose boat they had stolen. Three of them came alongside of us next day, clad after the manner of the natives, and were very anxious to be taken off the island.

The canoes of these islanders were the best we had seen. They are built of a log, having upon it pieces fastened together, to raise them sufficiently high. They are thirty or forty feet long, and are