

are formed in the ravines, but these soon disappear after the rains have ceased.

The coral reef attached to this island is interrupted to the south and west, where the surf beats full upon the rocky shore. There are, in consequence, but few places where boats can land, and only one harbour for ships, that of Mataatua; even this is unsafe from November to February, when the northwesterly gales prevail.

The soil is fertile, and was composed in every part of the island that was visited, of decomposed volcanic rock and vegetable mould.

The Porpoise, having taken Dr. Pickering and Lieutenant Maury again on board, set sail for Tutuila, for the purpose of joining the Vincennes, and beat to windward along the south side of Upolu. During this passage many of the crew became sick, which rendered it necessary to stop for a few days at Pago-pago, in order to recruit them. Here they all speedily recovered, except one man, named David Blodget, who died. The disorder was attributed to the dampness of the vessel.

The delay in the arrival of the Porpoise at Apia caused me to send the Flying-Fish to Tutuila, whence they both returned to Apia.

Previous to sailing, at the pressing instance of the chiefs, I ordered the marines and small-arm men of the squadron, in all about one hundred and fifty, to be sent on shore, with their music, for exercise. They had been well drilled to act on shore should occasion require, and were provided for the occasion with blank cartridges. The natives from far and near were collected to witness the review, and few scenes that occurred during the voyage were as amusing as this. The old and young were equally delighted, and it was ludicrous to see them endeavouring to imitate the soldiers, in their marches and countermarches. They were not satisfied unless the drummers were constantly beating, and were particularly delighted with the bass-drum. The firing occasioned some alarm at first, but when they saw it did no harm, they became reconciled to it, although even to the last they would scamper off to a distance at each discharge.

The review left an impression on their minds of the superiority of our arms that will not soon be forgotten.

The men were embarked at sunset, and had many jokes to relate of the conduct of the natives, and particularly old Pea, who on this, as on other occasions, acted as master of the ceremonies.

During our stay in this group, we experienced two slight shocks of earthquakes; their occurrence here is not unusual, but there is no account of any damage having been done. Their motion is generally tremulous and horizontal; one, however, has been experienced of a