

## CHAPTER VI.

### NEW SOUTH WALES.

1839.

ON the 10th of November we weighed anchor from Apia, and made all sail to the westward; and on the 11th had lost sight of Savaii. Officers were stationed for the three following nights to look out for the periodic showers of meteors, but the nights were cloudy, and none were seen.

On the 12th we made Uea or Wallis Island, and at 3 p. m. were off its southern end, which is situated in latitude  $13^{\circ} 24' S.$ , longitude  $176^{\circ} 09' 22'' E.$  Instead of a single island as might be expected from the name, there are nine separate islands, varying in circuit from one to ten miles, and enclosed with one extensive reef. The land is, in general, high. We made a running survey of this group.

While off Wallis Island, we were boarded by a canoe, in which was a native who spoke a little English. I had thus the means of communicating with the shore, and resolved to take advantage of it by landing the prisoner Tuvai. I conceived that this would accomplish all the ends I had in view in removing him from his native island, particularly as the course of the wind is such, for the greater part of the year, as to prevent canoes proceeding from Wallis Island to the Samoan Group, and there is in consequence no communication between them. His fate would of course remain a mystery to his countrymen, and the impression I had hoped to produce on their minds would be effectually made. My original intention had been to land him at Hoorn Island, which is two days' sail further to the south; but a similar opportunity might not perhaps have presented itself there.

Having decided on this course, I committed him to the charge of the person who had boarded us, and gave particular directions that