

considerable numbers, were, however, observed upon a low point projecting from its southern side.

This island is inhabited, and I have been informed that an unsuccessful attempt to establish a mission upon it was made by the Catholics in 1840.

Taking our departure from Hoorn Island, we made all sail to the southward, passing about sixty miles to the westward of the Feejee Group, which was to be afterwards a subject of close examination. On crossing the meridian of 180° we dropped the 14th of November, in order to make our time correspond to that of the Eastern Hemisphere, to which our operations were for some months to be confined.

On the 18th, we saw Matthews' Rock, whose height we ascertained to be one thousand one hundred and eighty-six feet. It is of a conical shape, about a mile in circumference, and principally composed of conglomerate. A dike of basalt was observed occupying about a third of the width of the island. In order to obtain specimens, a boat was despatched to endeavour to effect a landing: the undertaking proved difficult, but was accomplished by Dr. Fox and Midshipman Henry, who swam through the surf. They brought off some specimens of porphyritic rock, and a few small crystals of selenite. Patches were seen on the northern side of the island appearing as if covered with sulphur. As has been so often mentioned in speaking of other uninhabited islands, great numbers of birds were seen upon and around it. This island is in latitude $22^{\circ} 27'$ S., longitude $172^{\circ} 10' 33''$ E.

For several days preceding the 18th, a current had been perceived setting southwest; it was tried here, and found to set in that direction at the rate of three fathoms per hour. The wind began here to haul to the northward and eastward.

We had the misfortune on this day to lose one of our Six's thermometers, after having made a cast of two hundred fathoms with it. The difference between the temperature at the surface and at that depth, was 14° , the former being 76° . The following day (19th), a cast of six hundred fathoms was made by the Peacock. The temperature below was 50° , while that at the surface was 73° .

On the 24th, we had a remarkably severe storm of thunder and lightning; the ship appeared filled with the electric fluids; the points of the conductors, the mastheads, and yardarms were illuminated with Corpo Santos; and several of the officers declared that they had felt electric shocks. The gale blew violently, beginning from the northwest, and then shifting to the southwest. During its continuance the thermometer fell seventeen degrees.