

passage between them; both are composed of a black volcanic conglomerate, and the hills are covered with large boulders of lava. I landed at once for observations, tents being pitched for the boats' crews. The next morning, Lieutenant Underwood again joined me in the *Leopard*, and we passed the day on shore, observing for time and latitude. The other officers were variously employed in surveying, and some ascended the peak, and succeeded in getting a round of angles on the distant peaks. The day was remarkably clear. Round Island and the Asaua Group were also in sight.

There is but one village and only about thirty inhabitants on these islands; very few of the latter are males. Gingi, the noted chief of Muthuata, had passed by a few months before, on his way to the Asaua Group. Having demanded a large quantity of provisions, yams and taro, which it was impossible to supply, as the hurricane of the preceding March had destroyed all the crops, he landed and murdered all the men, women, and children that could be found.

The anchorage and bays on the west side were all explored, particularly those parts that Lieutenant Emmons, from want of time, had been unable to effect; but they were of minor importance. The anchorage in the western bays is not good, as they are so much filled with coral patches, as to make it difficult to find a clear berth for a ship. The island is about twelve miles in circumference. The ebb tide was found setting to the southward and westward.

Having finished the observations I designed making here, preparations were made for an early start in the morning. The boats received orders to pass at once over to the Asaua Group, while the brig and tender ran down the reef towards Awakalo or Round Island.

I landed on Round Island in time to secure my observations. The shelf on which we landed was found to be of black conglomerate, having had the soft sandstone washed away for fifteen or twenty feet above. The island is of a crescent form, both on the water-line and at its top, rising to the height of five hundred feet in the centre, and dropping at each end. It is, in various places, so deeply rent, as to make it impossible to reach its summit, which I was desirous of doing. There is no coral attached to it, but an extensive patch, on which there is anchorage, lies to the eastward; on this, however, it is not safe to anchor, for the ground is much broken. From the appearance of the water-worn strata, the island would appear to have been upheaved at several different times. After going round the island in my boat, I joined the tender, and ran over, south-southwest, for the Asaua Cluster. The distance was found to be ten miles by the patent log, and the passage is perfectly clear.