

We reached the most northern island of the cluster, Ya-asaua, which has several small islets off its northern point. We were just in time to get sight of the black rocks lying off the entrance of what I have called Emmons Bay, after Lieutenant Emmons, who had surveyed it. I felt so much confidence in this officer's work, that I ran into the bay after the night closed in, and was followed by the Porpoise. We thus obtained safe anchorage for the night. The boats answered our signal by large fires on the beach, at the head of the bay.

In the morning, we set about sounding this bay out, and orders were given to the Porpoise, to stand off and look for the great sea-reef which was supposed to exist to the westward, with passages through it, and to extend as far as Biva Island. This examination, together with a subsequent one by the tender, proved that it became deep and sunken a little to the northward of Round Island.

Ya-asaua is a very narrow island, about ten miles in length, and rises towards the southern part into a high peak, called Tau-tha-ke. Wishing to get observations from the top of it, we ran down and anchored near the southern bight, which is well protected, except from the northwest, by the small island of Ovawo and two small islets. We landed here with a strong party, well armed, as we knew the natives were particularly savage. We succeeded in getting good observations, and then ascended Tau-tha-ke, from which we obtained an excellent set of observations. The weather being very clear, the view was remarkably fine from its top, commanding all the surrounding headlands, islands, and reefs; the ascent to it is on the northern side, over a fine fertile plain upwards of a mile in extent, on which were the remains of a village or town, and of extensive plantations of bananas. These are now in total ruin, having been entirely destroyed by Gingi in his late expedition. The inhabitants, who had the air of a conquered people, treated us with great civility, but all the provisions they could furnish were a few cocoa-nuts, every thing else having been destroyed. They were found subsisting upon the yaka, a kind of root which grows wild on the hills, and is quite palatable when roasted.

Mr. Agate took a most capital likeness of the wife of the chief of this village. She was about forty years of age; her head and side-locks were nearly of a scarlet colour; her necklace was composed of a whale's tooth, shells, and a few beads; the corners of her mouth were tattooed in circles of a blue-black colour.

She was sitting modestly after the fashion of her country, and had a peculiar cunning look, through eyelids nearly closed. Altogether she