

CHAPTER XI.

HONOLULU.

1840.

AFTER the squadron had cleared the reefs, I made signal to the Porpoise to part company, for the purpose of proceeding to execute the orders I had given her commander. I afterwards despatched the tender to run along the sea-reef as far as Round Island, before shaping her course for Oahu in the Sandwich Islands.

The Vincennes and Peacock continued their course to the northward in company, and on the 13th, passed from east into west longitude, when we in consequence changed our reckoning a day. At the same time we lost the regular trade, and began to experience variable winds and light squalls.

Having now made all the necessary arrangements with Captain Hudson, I determined that the vessels should part company. By so doing, our passage to Oahu would probably be expedited,—a matter of some importance, in consequence of the low state of our stock of provisions; and pursuing separate tracks, there would be a better opportunity of searching for some doubtful islands, and of obtaining information in relation to the currents and winds. The vessels therefore parted company on the evening of the 14th, I having previously transferred Passed Midshipman Eld to the Vincennes, and Passed Midshipman Colvocoressis to the Peacock.

On the 15th August, the winds inclined more to the south, and on the 16th, on board the Vincennes, we had variable winds, veering to the northward. I therefore tacked to the eastward, in order to take advantage of the change of wind in making easting. Many tropic-birds were now seen. Our latitude was $5^{\circ} 41' S.$, longitude $175^{\circ} 46' W.$

On the 17th we passed the position where an island has been re-