

The dip was  $7^{\circ} 39'$  S., the variation  $7^{\circ} 26'$  E.

Light winds continued to blow from the eastward: we held our course to the northward. At ten on the morning of the 19th, breakers were discovered from the masthead, and by noon a small island was seen, to which I gave the name of the man who first saw it,—M'Kean's Island. In the afternoon, boats were despatched to survey it.

M'Kean's Island is composed of coral sand and blocks, and is three-fourths of a mile long, by half a mile wide. It rises twenty-five feet above the level of the sea, and has upon it no vegetation except a scanty growth of coarse grass. The surf was too heavy to permit a landing.

Our observations place M'Kean's Island in longitude  $174^{\circ} 17' 26''$  W., and latitude  $3^{\circ} 35' 10''$  S., and it lies about north-northeast sixty miles from that of Kemins.

The upper stratum of clouds was perceived to be moving to the westward with much rapidity, yet we had little wind below.

On the beginning of the 21st we had showers of rain, accompanied with a light wind from the westward, and the weather was much more comfortable than it had been for the last few days. During the latter part of the day a quantity of rain fell—5.2 inches. The temperature of the rain-water was  $62^{\circ}$ . This rain destroyed all our wind, but it came out again from the northward and eastward, with beautiful clear weather. The upper stratum of clouds was moving from the east-northeast. We caught a porpoise this day, differing somewhat in species from any we had yet seen.

On the 22d we again had a light breeze from the northward and westward, and, what surprised me, a heavy, disagreeable, rolling sea, from the southwest, towards which quarter we experienced a current of some strength.

On the 23d, while steering for Sydney Island, we had baffling airs; the swell left us, and we found the ship more comfortable. On the 24th, we had no wind, but experienced thunder, accompanied with a little rain. The tropic-birds were screaming around us at night, and tern were seen during the day.

On the 25th we again had thunder-showers from the northeast, succeeded by light winds from the eastward, the upper stratum of clouds continuing to fly from east-by-north.

On the 26th we made land, which proved to be a lagoon island, about sixty miles to the westward of the position of Sydney Island. At ten o'clock, being near it, the boats were lowered and sent round one side of the island, while the ship proceeded round the other.

This island was not found on any chart; I therefore called it Hull's