

Island, in honour of that distinguished officer of our navy. It has no doubt been frequently taken for Sydney Island. Its northwest point lies in longitude  $172^{\circ} 20' 52''$  W., and latitude  $4^{\circ} 29' 48''$  S. To our great surprise, we found on this island eleven Kanakas from Tahiti, with a Frenchman who had been left there some five months before, to catch turtles, of which they had succeeded in taking seventy-eight. The Frenchman was unwell and we did not see him, but three of the Kanakas came on board and remained a short time. They knew Sydney Island, which they told us lay about sixty miles to the eastward, and also two small islands to the northward, but no others hereabouts. Sydney Island they said they had visited, and that it was like the one on which we had found them. Hull's Island has a little fresh water and a few cocoa-nut trees upon it, but offers few inducements to visit it, even for the business of taking turtles. The value of those taken could scarcely cover the expenses incurred, which must have been beyond one thousand dollars, taking into consideration the time spent by the vessel going and returning. They informed us that their vessel had gone to Samoa for the purpose of trading, and that they had been expecting her for some time past.

We now stood for Sydney Island, and ran in the darkness until the screaming of the birds around us, warned me that it was most prudent to heave-to, and await the morning light.

The morning proved squally, no land was in sight, and the wind was strong from the eastward. No observations could be taken at noon, and soon after that hour land was discovered from the masthead, bearing northwest, which proved to be Hull's Island, showing that we had been strongly affected by a southwesterly current. I now saw that to attempt to reach Sydney Island, with the wind as we then had it, would occasion much loss of time; I therefore determined, first to search for those islands said to lie to the northward. With the wind at east-by-south, we stood to the north, and at daylight saw an island twelve miles to the westward, which was Birnie's Island. At ten o'clock we made another island, Enderbury's, which our observations placed in latitude  $3^{\circ} 08' S.$ , longitude  $171^{\circ} 08' 30'' W.$

On the latter island we spent the most of this day, making observations for dip and intensity. As it was somewhat peculiar in appearance, we made a particular survey of it. It is a coral island, with a dry lagoon. The usual shore coral reef, which is from thirty to one hundred and fifty feet wide, surrounds it, and extends a short distance from its points; its greatest height above the shore-reef, was found to be eighteen feet; it is almost entirely composed of large coral slabs, intermixed with sand: the slabs have the sonorous or