

under way and stood for Kahoolawe, to pick up the boats under Lieutenant Budd. Owing to the light wind, we did not succeed in reaching the point till late, where we found the king's schooner and the two boats about to enter upon the examination. We, therefore, lowered all the boats and sent them to search for the shoal. It was soon found, and proved to be much nearer the point of the island than was anticipated. It lies a mile and a half off the point, and has one and a half fathoms of water on it. We fixed bearings, by noting which, it may be avoided. Vessels may pass within two miles of the point with safety; but as it is difficult to estimate the distance, it will be better to pass the point at three miles distance, as nothing is lost by so doing. It is remarkable, that this is the only shoal around the Hawaiian Islands that is hidden from the navigator; and even this is situated so near the land that it can scarcely be deemed dangerous.

At nine o'clock, we took up the boats and bore away for Oahu. Passing to the southward of Lanai, though at the distance of twenty miles, we felt the effects of its highlands upon the winds.

Lanai is a dome-shaped island, and appears to have been frequently rent, large fissures being apparent on its sides. It is exclusively of volcanic formation.

The fish of these islands are numerous; and to Mr. Richards and Dr. Baldwin, this department of the natural history of the Expedition is much indebted. Dr. Pickering remarks, that the natives appear to be much better acquainted with the fish of their waters, than are the inhabitants of any civilized port we have visited. A number of new species were obtained; for which I refer to the report on the ichthyology of the cruise.

At Lahaina, bathing and frolicking in the surf are more practised than in any other place in these islands. The inhabitants take great delight in it; and it is said that the king himself is extremely fond of it.

The tide at Lahaina is irregular, being somewhat dependent on the winds: it runs to the northwest generally sixteen hours out of the twenty-four.

During our stay here on the 14th, a slight shock of an earthquake was experienced.

After passing Lanai, I hauled up for Molokai, intending, as the day was far advanced, to lie under the lee of that island for the night. Molokai is about forty miles long and nine miles in width. One-third of the island, towards the western end, is a barren waste, not susceptible of cultivation, except in the rainy season; it has in consequence