

CHAPTER VIII.

PAUMOTU GROUP AND PENRHYN ISLAND.

1840—1841.

THE disposition that was intended to be made of the Porpoise during the winter months, has been mentioned in a preceding chapter; an account of her proceedings in the prosecution of the duties assigned to her, will now be given.

On the 15th of November, as has been before stated, she left Oahu. In addition to her crew, a number of Kanakas were shipped for the purpose of being employed, under the direction of an officer, on one of the coral islands, to bore through the coral rock.

The first shoal searched for was that of Manuel Rodriguez: its supposed locality, in longitude $153^{\circ} 54'$ W., and latitude $10^{\circ} 58'$ N., was passed over, and no indications whatever of it were seen.

All the Kanakas became wofully sea-sick, and were lying about the deck for several days, heedless of every thing; after being out several days, and the sea becoming smooth, they recruited.

On the 22d they had reached latitude $9^{\circ} 13'$ N., when they experienced heavy rains, with frequent and vivid lightning, and constant gusts of wind. The next and following days they saw many birds, indicating a near approach to land. The easterly current was experienced between the latitude of 5° and 8° N., inclining more to the northward of east than farther west. On the 1st of December they passed to the eastward of Walker's Island. On the 3d, they crossed the line, in longitude $149^{\circ} 36'$ W.; and on the 4th, the Magnetic Equator, in latitude 2° S., and longitude $149^{\circ} 10'$ W. They now had the wind from the east, which was light, with calms.

On the 11th, they made the island of Manhii, of the Paumotu Group, and shortly after, that of Ahii, or Peacock Island: the same