

day they spoke the whale-ship *Nassau*, of New Bedford, bound to Tahiti.

On the 13th, they made the Rurick Chain.

On the 15th they reached Aratica, or Carlshoff Island, on which Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold had determined to land the party intended to experiment in boring, consisting of fifteen men, under Lieutenant Johnson, among whom were nine Kanakas and three seamen, the armourer with his forge, and a carpenter.

They had much rain with frequent squalls. Until they reached the latitude of 8° N., the wind prevailed from east-northeast; then from south to east, with frequent intermissions of calms; and from the parallel of 5° N. to 8° S., northeast winds were experienced; to the southward of the latter parallel, northwest and north winds. Lieutenant Johnson, agreeably to my orders, was put in charge of the party to conduct the experiments.*

By the 18th, they had succeeded in completing all the arrangements, when the brig left them in successful operation, to pursue her cruise for thirty or forty days to the windward part of the group.

On the 19th, they made Vincennes and Raraka Islands.

On the 20th, they made Saken Island, which proved low, with but a few trees on it: the greater part of the island is a reef.

The next day they were up with the three small islands to the southward of Saken, which they had been directed to look for and survey. Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold found and surveyed them, and designated the cluster as the Sea-Gull Group; while to the three islands he gave the names of Passed Midshipman Reid and Bacon, and Quarter-Master Clute. Reid Island proved to be inhabited, and the brig was boarded from it by two canoes. These contained four natives, besides a toothless old man calling himself a missionary, who readily consented to remain for the night on board: he was quite tastefully and well covered with tattooing, in chequered marks, as described on our former visit to this group. The others were not tattooed. The Tahitians on board had no difficulty in understanding them.

The canoes were small and wretched, being only about five feet long and two feet wide. The account these people gave of themselves was, that they had been residing on the island about a year, and had been sent there in a Tahitian schooner, by order of the Queen of Tahiti, for the purpose of raising food or productions useful to man.

* For orders, see Appendix X.