

down on previous charts, and that it was not to be found. In speaking of Bow Island, he likewise mentions the fact that several of its points had undergone material change, or were no longer the same,\* when visited after a lapse of fourteen years. These remarks refer particularly to islets situated within the lagoon. I could myself quote many instances of the same description; but this would occupy too much space.

I shall, therefore, take leave of the coral islands, trusting that these few remarks may excite a spirit of investigation in others.

Among other duties assigned Lieutenant Johnson were tidal observations, which were continued uninterruptedly, from the 19th of December, 1840, till his departure from the island; but unfortunately, the tide-staff was placed in the lagoon, a place not free from objections, because the tide there has but a small rise and fall, and is much influenced by the wind, that blows the water over the reef, giving less tide and a longer outflowing there; but the flood was distinctly seen, by Lieutenant Johnson, during a fishing excursion at the entrance of the lagoon, to flow in rapidly; and the high tide was correct, for the water on the reef was two feet or more in depth. The record of these observations gives the high water at the full and change of the moon at six o'clock: the rise and fall in the lagoon eight inches, and two tides in twenty-four hours. During our visit to this island I had observed a fall of upwards of two feet, and have to regret that the tide-staff was placed in so unfortunate a position.

Lieutenant Johnson reports the inhabitants as being twenty in number, seven men, eight women, and five children. In this small community they seem to experience the ills of life as well as elsewhere; for of the men, one was aged, another helpless, and a third a cripple, and one of the women was stone-blind.

On the day the Porpoise made Aratica, they discovered a large double canoe, with two mat-sails, which proved to be from Anaa, and bound to Aratica; there were sixteen persons on board, men, women, and children, together with their mats, calabashes, and large supplies of cocoa-nuts, &c., with which they declined parting. They had left Anaa, a distance of one hundred and thirty miles to the southward, the morning before. The canoe was a dull sailer, the brig leaving her far behind; she, however, reached the entrance to the lagoon during the day, and was warped through the passage into it.

The next day the Porpoise sailed for Tahiti, where she arrived on

\* See Captain Belcher's remarks on Bow Island—Voyage around the World in 1836 and 1842.