

believe that it cannot be calculated upon during the months of December, January, and February, south of latitude  $14^{\circ}$  S.

On the 6th of February, they made Flint's Island, situated in longitude  $151^{\circ} 48'$  W., and latitude  $11^{\circ} 25' 43''$  S. It is of small size, being only one mile and a half in length, from north-northwest to south-southeast, and thickly wooded: high breakers extended off its point for some distance, and the surf was so high that it was deemed impossible to land with a boat, which is to be regretted, as these isolated islands are always extremely interesting. No inhabitants were seen. The current was found to be setting to the westward.

The next island searched for was one reported to have been seen by Captain Cash. It was discovered on the 8th, and proved to be a low sandy islet with a lagoon. It is well wooded, half a mile in diameter, of oval shape, with heavy breakers surrounding it. Landing was reported to be impossible, and no attempt was made. After determining its position to be in latitude  $10^{\circ} 05'$  S., and longitude  $152^{\circ} 22' 30''$  W., they bore away for the position of Penrhyn Island. Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold believed the island last spoken of to be Staver's Island, and by this name it is designated on our charts. At night the water was very phosphorescent: its temperature  $78^{\circ}$ .

The Porpoise next passed over the supposed site of Teinhoven Island, without seeing any signs of land, and thence northwest across two positions assigned to Penrhyn's, examining particularly that given by Captain Cash, in latitude  $9^{\circ} 58'$  S., and longitude  $158^{\circ} 14'$  W. No island, however, was seen. Proceeding further to the northwest, they, on the 15th, discovered land, which proved to be Penrhyn Island, about thirty miles west of its place on Arrowsmith's Chart. It was of the usual coral formation, low, and densely covered with trees, among which the cocoa-nut was the most conspicuous.

The vessel stood off and on all night, and on the 16th, at sunrise, canoes were discovered approaching the brig, in great numbers, many of them large. At seven o'clock, two came alongside, and others soon followed them. As the numbers of the visitors increased, they became more bold, and clambered up the sides, uttering loud and savage yells. They were the wildest and most savage-looking beings that had been met with, vociferating in a frightful manner, and accompanying their exclamations with the most violent contortions and gesticulations: they seemed frantic with excitement. These natives were quite naked, except a few who had on a small maro of cocoa-nut leaves.

The canoes contained from seven to sixteen men each, all equally wild. The noise they made was almost deafening; every individual talking earnestly in a language not comprehended by our party. The