

When Mr. Hale pronounced the name of Tagaloa, the great deity of Polynesia, it appeared to surprise and annoy them. One of them mentioned that Tagaloa was a god taboo to their country, and refused to speak farther about him.

They reported that ten ships had visited their island, and added that a ship of the Wiwi people had spent some days about their island in fishing: that the captain, with five others, had slept on shore. It was conjectured that Wiwi was the appellation by which they distinguished the French people or ships, this term being made use of in New Zealand. The invitations to go on shore were accompanied by such significant signs as to lead to the conclusion that they were not the most virtuous people, and very unlike their ancestors, or race of the Union Group, whose only desire seemed to be to get rid of the parties before night.

The extreme north island was found in latitude $7^{\circ} 56' 11''$ S., longitude $178^{\circ} 27' 32''$ E.: it is eight miles long, east-northeast and west-southwest; its greatest width is nearly the same.

The vessels left Nukufetau the same evening, and steered away to the northward. In latitude $6^{\circ} 10'$ S., and longitude $177^{\circ} 41'$ E., they passed a small island which has no lagoon, and does not appear to be named on any of the charts. This they saw at some distance, and although it appears to have been seen before, yet as the charts only designate it as an island, I have bestowed upon it the name of Speiden, after the purser of the Peacock, one of the most valuable officers of the Expedition.

On the 24th, they fell in with another island, in latitude $6^{\circ} 19'$ S., longitude $176^{\circ} 23' 15''$ E. This discovery I have called Hudson, after Captain Hudson. It was surveyed and found to be but one mile and four-tenths long, north and south, and nine-tenths of a mile wide, east and west. This island is inhabited, a few natives being seen on the beach, and several houses under cocoa-nut trees on its west side. It is of coral formation, has no lagoon, and can be seen about eight or ten miles. There are reefs extending from its north and south points nearly half a mile, on which the surf breaks heavily. They had no communication with its inhabitants.

On the 25th, they passed the small island of St. Augustine, whose position as ascertained was in latitude $5^{\circ} 35'$ S., and longitude $176^{\circ} 06'$ E. It appeared well wooded, but being to windward, it could not be reached without much delay. The wind, thus far, among these islands, had been from the north, and very unfavourable for a vessel cruising among them for their examination; and being light and variable, little progress could be made in any direction.