

Until the 3d of April, they continued to sail to the northward, without meeting with any islands. On that day they made Drummond's Island of the charts, one of the Kingsmill Group, where they encountered the regular northeast trades. This island is called Taputeouea by the natives; it is situated in latitude $1^{\circ} 20' S.$, and longitude $174^{\circ} 57' E.$ It is of coral formation, is thirty miles long in a northwest and southeast direction, and varies in width from a half to three quarters of a mile. This, however, only includes the high portions, or that which is above the ocean level a few feet. It is thinly covered with cocoa-nut and pandanus-trees, and not a patch of grass is to be seen, or any sort of shrubbery or undergrowth. To the leeward, or on its west side, the reefs and sand-banks extend off some distance, gradually increasing from the northwest point to the southeast, where they are as much as six and a half miles in width. This reef is interrupted in places, and there is good anchorage off the town of Utiroa, towards the northwest end, near a small sand-bank, which is usually bare. The whole shore of the island as they approached it appeared covered with houses, presenting to the view one continuous village. At intervals of a mile there were buildings of huge proportions, far exceeding in size any they had before met with.

As they approached, canoes were seen coming towards them from all parts of the island. The appearance of these natives was totally different from those already seen to the south. They appeared of the middle size, slender, and well proportioned. Their colour was a shade or two darker than that of the Tahitians, and they exhibited a greater variety of face and features, with black glossy hair, finer than in other races. Their features were small, but high and well marked; their eyes large, black, and bright; their nose straight or slightly aquiline, and always somewhat widened at the base; their mouth large, with full lips and small teeth, which were very imperfect from decay, and they are the only natives in the Pacific with this defect. From the projection of the cheek-bones, the eyes had in some the appearance of being sunken. They wore mustaches, but their beards were scanty. They evidently set a great value on these as ornaments, priding themselves much upon their appearance. The few officers who had whiskers were very much admired, the natives patting their whiskered cheeks with great marks of admiration.

Altogether they were thought to resemble the Malays. Many of them were observed to have the same disease as exists at Ellice's Islands, disfiguring the body and giving it the same scurfy and disgusting appearance.