

which have had constant intercourse with shipping. They appeared entirely ignorant of the use of tobacco, which it will be recollected the other natives coveted so much; and what seemed to confirm the belief in the truth of their assertion of the visits of ships, was the absence of females in the canoes, which had been with the natives of the other islands so prominent an article of barter.

They seemed delighted with the pieces of old iron, and regarded junk-bottles with admiration. They are entirely the same in appearance, and in character and customs, with the rest; they go naked, and speak the same dialect.

Tarawa lies in latitude  $1^{\circ} 29' N.$ , and longitude  $173^{\circ} 05' E.$ , and is of coral formation.

Until the 24th, they were engaged in the survey of Apia, or Charlotte Island. This consists of strings of coral islets, situated within a reef, which is six and seven feet above the water. The reef has a bluff front, and is much worn by the sea. There is no coral sand. Apia was found to be in latitude  $1^{\circ} 52' N.$ , and  $173^{\circ} 02' E.$  It is a lagoon island. Its length in the direction of northeast and southwest is sixteen miles, and its average breadth five. On the east side of the island the land is covered with cocoa-nut and pandanus groves, with some undergrowth. The northwest and west side is a continuous reef, four or five feet above the water's edge, on which are many islets. About the centre of the reef, on the southwest side, is a ship's channel into the lagoon, which is half a mile wide. Near its entrance is a small islet, which stands alone, and is a good mark for the entrance. There is no island in the lagoon, as shown on the French charts of Duperrey.

This island would appear to be thickly inhabited, from the number of towns on it. Several canoes came off to the ship, which were similar in construction to the others we had seen. Their stock of articles for trade was, as usual, scanty. There was but one woman seen, and she proved as ugly as those previously met with had been pleasing in their looks. They speak the same dialect, and are the same people, although their intercourse seems to have been very much confined to themselves. At the islet near the entrance to the lagoon, about sixty gallons of water were obtained from the native well, but it was flat and brackish. No other supplies can be procured at this island.

When the boats landed at the islet, the natives were in great alarm, and fled; but, reassured by the calls of Kirby, they returned, and their fears were effectually quieted by a few presents.

It was ascertained that their knowledge of other islands only extended to Tarawa, or Knox's Island, and two others. To one of these