

tender every preparation was made to receive the savages, as it was anticipated that the attack would be made at early daylight. They were not mistaken in this, for at that time the natives were seen in great numbers, but just then fortunately the tender floated. The natives continued, however, to approach boldly until within musket-shot, when they were motioned to keep off, which they disregarded. The headmost canoe having struck its sail for the purpose of closing alongside, Lieutenant Emmons fired his rifle, aiming so that the ball should pass close by the head of the steersman: this alarmed him so much that he immediately jumped overboard, and was followed by all the rest. The remaining canoes now kept off; but continued to follow the tender until she left the lagoon, which she did by the passage through which she had entered. When the natives found that the prize had escaped them, they became outrageous, making use of many violent gesticulations of the disappointment they had experienced.

The next island that claimed their attention was Maraki, or Matthew's Island. It is much smaller than the two last, and situated in latitude $2^{\circ} 00' N.$, and longitude $173^{\circ} 25' 30'' E.$ It is a lagoon island, without entrances, and of coral formation. It is but five miles long, north-by-east and south-by-west, and two and a half wide at its base, being of triangular shape.

It appears to be densely peopled, for many villages were seen, and after dark a large number of fires were burning.

A canoe ventured alongside, in which was one of the natives, of an herculean frame, and calling himself a chief. When asked how many people they had on the island, he replied, as many as were on board the ship. As all hands were on deck, it is supposed that his simile was equivalent to a multitude.

The persons in this canoe were exceedingly desirous of getting old iron hoops: they did not remain a long time on board, and seemed to be uneasy. After they had obtained these small presents, they quietly abandoned the ship, and on getting into their canoes, soon plied the paddles in such a manner as showed that they were quite anxious to get out of reach, seemingly congratulating themselves upon their miraculous escape. Their dialect and customs were the same as those of the rest of the group.

On the 27th, the Peacock left Matthew's Island to look for Pitt's Island, which they made on the 28th, at 9 A. M. On the 29th, the weather permitted the survey to be made.

There are two islands known under this name: the largest is called by the natives Taritari, and the smallest, Makin. The latitude of the southern point of Taritari is $3^{\circ} 08' N.$, longitude $172^{\circ} 48' E.$ This