

locality of the island. We passed about five miles to the westward of its place, but no sign of land was seen. This was the first day since leaving Oahu, that we were able to write with any degree of comfort, the sea having become perfectly smooth.

I was at first disposed to doubt the accuracy of the observations for latitude, but the next day (5th December) proved them to be correct, nearly the same difference having occurred.

On the 6th, we reached the position of Gaspar Island, in latitude 15° N., and as the different localities assigned it varied considerably in longitude, I determined to run on its parallel until I had passed them all.

On the 7th, we dropped a day, passing into east longitude. Our winds had become light, varying from the east to the southwest quarters, and it was generally calm throughout the night, so that we made little progress.

On the 10th, the current was found setting west-southwest three quarters of a mile, both by the difference of the observations, and the current-log. The pot, at this time, was seen at thirty-two fathoms depth, several fathoms lower than at any previous observation. The temperature of the water was 81° , the day fine, and beautifully clear.

We continued on the parallel of latitude 15° N. until the 14th, when we found ourselves in the longitude of $174^{\circ} 50'$ E., having passed over all the localities assigned the island, between longitude 175° W. and $174^{\circ} 20'$ E. I am fully satisfied that it does not exist within those meridians.

Having been thus retarded, the fear I entertained of meeting with light, and in all probability, westerly winds, determined me to forego my visit to Strong's and Ascension Islands, and haul to the northward, to look for some of the many shoals laid down on the track usually pursued by ships bound to the China Seas.

After this determination was made, I hauled up for an island said to exist in longitude $171^{\circ} 42'$ E., and latitude 16° N. On the night of the 15th we hove-to in order to run over the locality by daylight. This position was passed over, and forty miles to the westward of it explored, but nothing indicating a proximity to land was seen. The supposed site of Cornwallis Island, in longitude $169^{\circ} 33'$ E., and latitude $16^{\circ} 51'$ N., was in like manner passed over.

Wake's Island next claimed my attention. On the 19th we reached its parallel, and hove-to till daylight of the 20th, when we discovered it, bearing west-by-north, about nine miles distant. The wind was light from the north-northeast. After breakfast, several boats were sent to survey the island. Wake's Island is a low coral one, of triangular form, and eight feet above the surface. It has a large lagoon