

in the centre, which was well filled with fish of a variety of species; among these were some fine mullet. There is no fresh water on the island, and neither pandanus nor cocoa-nut trees. It has upon it the shrubs which are usually found on the low islands of the Pacific, the most abundant of which was the *Tournefortia*. Mr. Peale found here the short-tailed albatross, and procured an egg from its nest. The birds were quite tame, although they were not so numerous as we had before met with on uninhabited islands.

The time of low water took place at one o'clock, and the moon entered its last quarter on the same day: the tide was setting along the shore of the island with much strength to the westward; the rise and fall was three feet. From appearances, the island must be at times submerged, or the sea makes a complete breach over it; the appearance of the coral blocks and of all the vegetation leads to this conclusion, for they have a very decided inclination to the eastward, showing also that the violent winds or rush of the water, when the island is covered, are from the westward. The reef around this island is very small in extent.

The position of Wake's Island was found by my observations of equal altitudes on shore to be in longitude $166^{\circ} 31' 30''$ E., and latitude $19^{\circ} 10' 54''$ N.

By four o'clock, P. M., all the boats had returned on board, when we filled away and proceeded on our course to the westward. Although these coral islands resemble one another very strongly, yet they afforded us some recreation for a few hours, and much satisfaction in obtaining series of observations in magnetism. Our visit to Wake's Island gave us an opportunity of adding to our collections in natural history.

In the evening we steered to pass over the position of Halcyon Island,—longitude $163^{\circ} 30'$ E., latitude $19^{\circ} 13'$ N.; and on the 27th, we passed immediately over its locality, and had run on its supposed parallel fifty miles on each side of it, but nothing was seen of it. We now felt the current to the southeast twelve miles in the twenty-four hours.

Folger's Island next claimed my attention: it is said to lie in longitude $155^{\circ} 19'$ E., latitude $18^{\circ} 21'$ N. This position was passed over, but the inquiry resulted as the others had, in a fruitless search.

I now bore away for Grigan, the northernmost of the inhabited Ladrone or Marian Islands, which we made on the 29th December, at 7 A. M., bearing south-southwest. As we approached these islands, we had experienced a strong current to the northward and westward; and the wind had also veered to the southward and westward.

At midnight, we discovered the island of Assumption, bearing north-east-by-east.