

Tahiti is about 30 miles long, and 20 in width. The population of this island alone, was estimated by Capt. Cook at 200,000, but it is now said not to exceed 10,000.

On the morning of our arrival the wind died away, and left us outside the harbor in a calm. Capt. Youngs and five or six of his men lowered a small boat and went ashore, leaving us to come up when the breeze should favor us. Several American whale ships were at anchor in the harbor; we also found a French man-of-war here, which had placed the principal town under martial law. The French and natives were expecting to have a *brush*, in consequence of which the American Consul thought it not advisable for us to stop here, as we had anticipated, when we left Van Dieman's Land. After remaining here a short time, we accordingly continued our voyage with Captain Y. to the Sandwich islands. On the 13th April, we crossed the Equator, and on the 23d, we spoke the whaler *Levant* of Sagharbor.

Thursday, the 24th of April, we came in sight of Owhyhee, or Hawaii, the largest of the Sandwich Islands, and on the 27th we arrived at Honolulu, the port of entry and principal town on the island of Oahu or Woahoo, belonging to the same group. These islands are situated in the North Pacific ocean, between latitude 18 and 23 N., and long. 154 and 160 W., and were also discovered by Captains Cook and King in 1778. It was at Hawaii that Capt. Cook was killed by the natives. They received their name in honor of Lord Sandwich, of the British Admiralty. The population of the whole group was estimated by Capt. King at 400,000, but since that time it has diminished to such an extent, that Ellis, in his "Tour through Hawaii" in 1837, only puts it at 150,000, a great diminution of the population. The principal of the Sandwich Islands are Hawaii, containing 4000 square miles, and 85,000 inhabitants; Maui, 600 square miles, and 20,000 inhabitants; Oahu, 520 square miles, and 20,000 inhabitants, and Atooi, 525 square miles, with 10,000 inhabitants. Most of the islands are mountainous and volcanic. On some of them the fire is extinguished, while on others volcanoes are seen in successful operation. The climate is warm, but not unhealthy; the winter being marked only by the prevalence of heavy rains between December and March. The greatest heat during the year does not exceed eighty-eight Fahrenheit, and the least is about sixty. The only species of quadrupeds originally found in these islands, were a small kind of hogs, dogs, and a sort of rat. Since then cattle, sheep, horses, goat, &c., have been sent out and are now found in plenty on most of the islands. An abundance of sea-fowl are found on the coasts, and in the interior a species of parrot, and a kind of woodpecker, with which the images of the gods were formerly adorned. The vegetable productions are taro, or *arum*, yam, bread-fruit, cocoa-nut, and strawberry. Oranges, grapes, and other tropical fruits have been introduced and do well.