

The reunion of the several vessels of the squadron did not give rise to the feeling of pleasure which had attended such meetings on other occasions. A deep gloom on the contrary was spread over the minds of all by the melancholy fate of their comrades, who had been the victims of the butchery at Malolo. In honor of their memories a funeral sermon was preached on the 10th of August by the chaplain, before the assembled officers and crews. It was likewise voted at a meeting of the officers, that a monument be erected at Mount Auburn to the memory of Lieutenant J. A. Underwood and Midshipman Wilkes Henry.

After their departure from the Feejee Group, signal was made to the Porpoise to part company, and the tender was despatched to run along the sea-reef as far as Round Island, before shaping her course for Oahu in the Sandwich Islands.

All the necessary arrangements with Captain Hudson being complete by this time Lieutenant Wilkes determined that the vessels should part company. By pursuing separate tracks there would be a better opportunity of searching for some doubtful islands, and of obtaining information in relation to the currents and winds. The vessels therefore parted company on the evening of the 14th of August.

On the 19th the Vincennes made an island in the neighborhood of the position assigned to Kemins' or Gardner's Island. This is a low coral island, having a shallow lagoon in the centre, into which there is no navigable passage, but the reef on the western side is so low that the tide can flow into the lagoon.

At ten on the morning of the 19th breakers were discovered from the mast-head, and by noon a small island was seen, to which was given the name of M'Kean's Island. In the afternoon boats were despatched to survey it.

M'Kean's Island is composed of coral sand and blocks, and is three-fourths of a mile long by half a mile wide. It rises twenty-five feet above the level of the sea, and has upon it no vegetation except a scanty growth of coarse grass. It lies about north-northeast sixty miles from that of Kemins.

On the 23d of September the Vincennes made the island of Oahu, and by four o'clock we saw the town of Honolulu, which is very conspicuous from the sea, and has more the appearance of a civilized land, with its churches and spires, than any other island in Polynesia.