

wild, are very rare, and those who possess will not part with their little stock at any rate.

Though the wind was constantly favourable, yet the incessant mist impeded our progress for many days. We met with nothing remarkable till the 23d, when we discovered land, which proved, on our approach, to be Aintschitka, or one of the Rat Islands. From what we could distinguish through the mist, its shores appeared to be naked and not very elevated, but sometimes mountainous. At no great distance from thence we descried the island properly called the Rat Island, which derives its name from the circumstances of its abounding with rats. As there were formerly none of these animals here, it is surmised that they made their escape to the shore out of some Japan vessel, stranded on the coasts. The eastern side of Aintschitka is more mountainous than the western, forming a rocky declivity from south-west to north-west. On a cursory view we estimated its length at 30 Italian miles.

On the 25th, the wind became so strong that we were obliged to carry less sail. Towards evening we stood to the north, and on the following day to the north-west; and, although still enveloped in mist, we could distinguish the high snowy mountains on the islands Adach and Jagitka.

On the 28th, the wind and mist abating, we perceived the island Amilja, and the lofty mountains Atcha contiguous to it to the west, both belonging to the Andiejenow Islands. We conceived our latitude to this time to be $41^{\circ} 54'$, and our longitude $187^{\circ} 67'$; the western point of Amilja being north-west $52^{\circ} 30'$ at a distance of 15 miles. We sailed the whole day in a parallel line with the island about 8 miles distant. It is naked, mountainous, long, and marrow; being from west to east 44 miles in extent. Its eastern extremity is bounded by high and steep rocks. Its centre contains a number of hills. Its population does not exceed 60 persons.

In the evening we came in sight of the mountainous island of Seguan, about 24 miles in extent, lying 22 miles north-east by east of Amilja. It is uninhabited, and is said formerly to have had a volcanic mountain.

On the morning of the 29th we passed the island Amuchta at a distance of 6 miles. It is about 27 miles in extent, and is said to have a volcano. About 12 miles from Amuchta we passed Techugagar, an island 12 miles long and 5 miles broad.

On the 30th, we fell in with the four volcanic islands, which take their names from the four craters which they contain. They lie contiguous to each other, and bear distinct names.