

avoided. The two cocoa-nut trees over the western point *clear* of the bushes notes it, as well as one on the opposite side. These two rocks form the gateway of the channel ; and as all the rocks are *plainly visible*, they are easily avoided.

We now took our leave of Bow Island, shaping a course for Chain Island or Anaa, intending, if landing was practicable, to fix its position.

On the morning of the 29th we saw the two groups ; about eight, Melville Island ; in the evening Bird Island ; on the morning of the 30th Croker Island ; and at dawn on the 1st of April Chain Island. About seven we had approached almost within hail, when we were visited by a canoe, from which we took a native pilot, and passing close enough for the native to hail his friends and desire them to bring off pigs, &c., for barter. We rounded to and obtained soundings, one hundred and seventy fathoms *sand*, at half a mile from the shore. We afterwards tried about one mile off with nine hundred and forty-six, without gaining bottom.

An old native, who assumed some degree of authority, paid us a visit, and intimated that no pigs would come off unless the boat was sent in for them, as well as to exhibit what we had to traffic with. The cutter was accordingly despatched, but not succeeding, and finding the canoes had left me more visitors than I wished, I determined to take them in-shore and try if I could succeed. On reaching the safe water, men, women, and children swam off in great