

greater part of it. The surrounding border of land was low and narrow in many places, especially towards the south, where the beach consisted of a reef of rocks. Three places on the north side had the same appearance, so that on the whole the land seemed to resemble several woody islands. To the west was a large clump of trees, and in the center two cocoa-nut trees. When within a mile of the north side, though we cast out a line, no bottom could be found at 130 fathom, nor any good anchorage. This island was covered with trees, but we could discern no other species than the palm and the cocoa-nut. Several of the natives were discovered on shore, they appeared to be tall, with heads remarkable large, which probably some bandage might have increased. Their complexion was of the copper colour, and their hair was black. Some of these people were seen abreast of the ship, holding poles or pikes of twice their own height. They appeared also naked, but when they retired, on the ship's passing by the islands, they put on a light-coloured covering. Some clumps of palm-trees served them for habitations, which at a distance appeared like hilly ground, and the view of the groves was a very agreeable one. Our captain called this place Lagoon Island. It lay in 18 degrees south latitude, and 139 west longitude. In the afternoon we again saw land to the north-west, by sun-set we reached it, when it appeared to be a low island of a circular form, and about a mile in circumference. The land was covered with verdure of various kinds, but no inhabitants were visible, nor any cocoa-nut trees. This island is distant from that of Lagoon about seven leagues north, and 62 west, which our gentlemen on board named Thumb Cap.

On the 5th we continued our course with a favourable wind, and about three o'clock discovered land to the westward. It was low, in form resembling a bow, and in circumference seemed to be ten or twelve leagues. Its length is about three or four leagues, and its width about two hundred yards. The beach was flat, and seemed to have no other herbage upon it than seaweeds. The resemblance of a bow was preserved in the arch and cord forming the land, while the intermediate space was taken up by water. The arch, in general, was covered with trees of various verdure and different heights. This island, from the smoke that was discovered, appeared to be inhabited, and we gave it the name of Bow Island.

On the 6th about noon, we again saw land to the west, and at three o'clock we came up with it. This land seemed to be divided into two parts, or rather a collection of islands, (to which we gave the name of the Groups) to the extent of about nine leagues. The two largest were divided from the others by a stright, the

breadth of which was about half a mile. Some of these islands were ten miles or more in length, but appeared like long narrow strings of land, not above a quarter of a mile in breadth; but they produced trees, however, of different kinds, among which was the cocoa-nut tree. Several of the inhabitants came out in their canoes, and two of them shewed an intention of coming on board; but these, like the rest, stopped at the reef. From the observations made, these people appeared to be about our size, and well made. Their complexion was brown, and they were naked. In general, they had two weapons, one was a long pole, spear-pointed, and the other resembled a paddle. Several of their canoes were constructed in such a manner as not to carry more than three persons; others were fitted up for six or seven; and one of these boats hoisted a sail, which was converted into an awning when a shower of rain fell. Capt. Cook would not stay for any of them, neither could we determine, whether the signals made were meant for defiance, or for invitation; one party waving their hats, and another answering by shouting. In this respect it was not judged prudent to try the experiment, in order to be convinced, as the island appeared of no importance, and the crew not being in want of anything it could produce. This curiosity was therefore laid aside, in expectation of soon discovering the island, where we had been directed to make our astronomical observations, the natives of which, it was reasonable to conjecture, would make no resistance, having already experienced the danger of opposing a European force.

On the 7th we discovered another island, judged to be in compass about five miles, being very low, and having a piece of water in the center. It appeared to abound in wood, and to be covered with verdure, but we saw no inhabitants upon it. It was named Bird Island, from the number of birds that were seen flying about. This lies in latitude 17 deg. 48 min. south, and 143 deg. 35 min. west longitude; distant ten leagues, in the direction west, half north from the west end of the Groups.

On the 8th in the afternoon we saw land to the northward, and came abreast of it in the evening, at about five miles distance. This land seemed to be a chain of low islands, of an oval figure, and consisted of coral and sand, with a few clumps of small trees, and in the middle of it was a lagoon. On account of its appearance, it was called Chain Island.

On the 10th, after a tempestuous night we came in sight of Osnaburgh island, called by the natives Maitea. This island is circular, about four miles in circumference, partly rocky, and partly covered with trees.

C H A P. III.

The Endeavour arrives at Otaheite, or George the Third's Island—Rules established by Capt. Cook for conducting a trade with the natives—An account of several incidents during his stay in this island—An observatory and fort erected—Excursions into the woods—Visits from several of the chiefs—The music of the natives, and their manner of burying their dead, described—Other excursions and incidents, both on board and on shore—First interview with Oberea, the supposed Queen of the island—The fort described—The quadrant stolen, and the consequences—A visit to Toolababi, an Indian chief—A wrestling-match described—European seeds are sown—The Indians give our people names.

ON the 11th we made Otaheite, or as captain Wallis had named it, king George the Third's Island. The calms prevented our approaching it till the morning of the 12th, when a breeze sprung up, and several canoes were seen making towards the ship. Few of them, however, would come near, and those who did could not be persuaded to come on board. They had brought with them young plantains and branches of trees, which were handed up the ship's side, and, by their desire, were stuck in conspicuous parts of the rigging as tokens of peace and friendship. We then purchased their commodities, consisting of cocoa-nuts, bananas, bread-fruit, apples and figs, which

were very acceptable to the crew. On the evening of the same day we opened the north-west point of the isle, to which the Dolphin's people had given the name of York Island. We lay off and on all night, and in the morning of the 13th we entered Port Royal Harbour in the island of Otaheite, and anchored within half a mile of the shore. Many of the natives came off immediately in their canoes, and brought with them bread-fruit, cocoa-nuts, apples, and some hogs, which they bartered for beads and other trinkets with the ship's company. The tree which bears the bread-fruit is about the size of a horse-chestnut: its leaves are near a foot and a half in length, in shape oblong, and very much