

living here, earning a very precarious livelihood by supplying the whalers which happened to call with poultry and vegetables, but the frequency of earthquakes, and a sudden eruption of the volcano, forced them to abandon it. At present it is understood that no one is living on the island. The others, named Curtis and Macaulay, are not more than 800 feet above the sea, and only from one to three miles in extent. We dredged here with great success from a depth of 700 fathoms, the rich ground yielding some very fine sponges, pentacrinus, asterias, and other stalked starfish, and many varieties of deep-sea fish, and other things of interest. The weather continued of a very squally character. On the 17th we sounded, and somewhat unexpectedly came on a depth of 2850 fathoms, the deepest water found since leaving the Atlantic. The bottom was composed of red clay, without the least trace of carbonate of lime, which is usually found in deep water. At daylight on the 19th land was in sight, and as we proceeded, we were soon almost surrounded with islands and small rocks, some only giving indication of their position by the surf breaking over them: many are not more than 30 or 40 feet above the surface, but in most cases are covered with dense vegetation. Eoa Island was passed at 11, and by noon we came to anchor off Tongatabu, the principal island in the Friendly group.