

the other hand, a day is gained by sailing from west to east. In short, the mode of reckoning time amongst the South Sea Islands depends solely upon whether they have been approached in the first instance from the west or the east by the navigator who introduces amongst them the Christian calendar.

On the 22nd July, in lat. $29^{\circ} 1'$ north, long. $154^{\circ} 43'$ west, we reached the commencement of the north-east trades. The weather was very fine. The deep blue sky above, and the calm beauty of the long, full moonlight nights exercised a beneficial influence on all hands, and now day after day the sea-birds—those constant attendants—gradually began to cease flitting round the ship as we approached the Equator.

July 27th.—This morning land was reported, and although at first some twenty miles distant, yet in the clear atmosphere could be seen a group of grey, barren peaks, rising verdureless out of the quiet, lonely sea. Everybody was soon on deck to have a look at the land after the 4500 miles of watery solitude, and the sight was indeed a welcome one.

As we neared it, lofty peaks, brown and red, sun-scorched and wind-bleached, showing here and there traces of their fiery origin, were in view. Nearer yet, and the detail of the land began to make itself manifest: first the line of beach, marked by a long line of surf, and then the waving cocoa-nut trees, with the imposing promontory of Diamond Head