

for rock (a), and passing eastward of it, the regular track was followed to the Prince of Wales Channel. It was intended to search for Edward's Rock, but the water was too muddy, and the weather too misty, to afford any reasonable hope of finding it. At 2.45 P.M. several rich hauls of the dredge were obtained at the entrance to the Prince of Wales Channel (Station 186, 8 fathoms), and then the ship anchored between Wednesday and Hammond Islands, where the Expedition was rejoined by the steam pinnace, which had sailed from Albany Pass over to Flinders Pass on a dredging excursion. A rock specimen obtained at Hammond Island is a quartz porphyry.

Rock (a) is about 40 feet high; Horned Hill on Horn Island is a prominent saddle; Strait Rock is bushy, and some 60 to 70 feet high; Tuesday Islets are about 100 feet high, and Wednesday Island 200 feet. The whole of the reefs in the vicinity of the anchorage were dry at 3 P.M., and but little tidal stream was felt until 4 P.M., when a strong southeast set was experienced, which lasted till 8.15 P.M., after which the tide turned to the northwestward. The time of low water appears, therefore, to be nearly the same as at Port Albany, but there the northwest stream would begin at 5 P.M., while at this anchorage it did not commence until 8.15 P.M. The ship remained swung to the northwest tide until 3.45 A.M., when slack water ensued, and at 4 A.M. the southeast stream commenced to flow. At Port Albany the northwest stream finished at 1 A.M.

On the 9th, at 5.45 A.M., the anchor was weighed and the vessel proceeded under sail through the Prince of Wales Channel. The mail steamer, from Singapore to Brisbane, being met with at the west end of this channel, was communicated with, and through the kindness of the captain some newspapers were received from her. At 8 A.M. Ipili Reef was passed and a course shaped as necessary towards Booby Island, off which sail was shortened, and at 10 A.M. a party of naturalists landed, the ship obtaining some hauls of the dredge (Station 187). The dredgings were very successful, amongst other things a remarkably large Starfish (*Oreaster*), two feet in diameter, being obtained. At 1.30 P.M. the party returned from Booby Island, and the ship bore up for the passage between Proudfoot Shoal and Cook's Reef, carrying a line of soundings of from 8 to 10 fathoms until 5.50 P.M., when the patent log showed the vessel had passed Cook's Reef, and 16 fathoms were obtained, after which the course was altered to W. by N.

The Ipili Reef is marked on the chart as though the rocks were always above high water, and the sailing directions also lead one to suppose so by calling them a cluster of high rocks,<sup>1</sup> whereas they must certainly all be covered at high water, as when they were passed at dead low water, they were but a foot or two uncovered, and looked like the elevated part of a reef which dries at low water, or perhaps half-tide.

On Booby Island there were a few cases of biscuits, but the cases were fast decaying, and shipwrecked people should not trust to this island for supplies, but push on at once for the settlement at Cape York.

<sup>1</sup> See Australian Directory, vol. ii. p. 240, 2nd Ed.