

Round Island is approached, but none that it would be advisable for a vessel to enter, the ground inside being thickly studded with sunken coral reefs.

The tender, after reaching Round Island, made sail for the Hawaiian Islands, and performed the passage in thirty-three days. They did not see any thing during the whole route. The weather they experienced seems to have been much of the same kind as heretofore described; there was little interruption of the easterly winds. The northeast trades were met in latitude  $10^{\circ}$  N., and the tender crossed the equator in longitude  $166^{\circ}$  W. The easterly current was found to affect her in latitudes from  $4^{\circ}$  to  $6^{\circ}$  N., and they occasionally experienced the westerly current during the rest of the passage.

I have already mentioned the warm reception we met with at the Hawaiian Islands. The governor, Kekuanaoa, kindly placed at my disposal the large stone house belonging to Kekauluohi, in the square where the tomb in which the royal family are interred, is situated. The tomb was at that time undergoing some repairs. The state coffins, which are richly ornamented with scarlet and gold cloth, and in two of which the bodies of the late king, Liho-liho, and his wife were brought from England, in the frigate *Blonde*, were deposited in the house I was to occupy. The governor had them at once removed to the tomb, and in two days I was comfortably established, and engaged in putting up my instruments, and getting ready to carry on our shore duties.

It will now be necessary for me to enter into some particulars relative to the future operations of the squadron, in order to show the difficulties that had to be encountered at this part of the cruise. Before reaching Oahu, I was convinced that it would be altogether too late to attempt any thing on the Northwest Coast of America this year, and to winter there would have rendered us liable to contract diseases to which the men would have been too prone, after the hard service they had seen in the tropics; besides, I was averse to passing our time in comparative inactivity, and I wished to make the most of the force that had been intrusted to my charge. As my instructions had not contemplated such an event, I was left to my own judgment and resources, to choose the course which would prove most beneficial to our commerce, and to science; I had also to take into account what we could accomplish in some other direction, prior to the end of April, when the season would become favourable for our operations on the Northwest Coast, and in the Columbia River.