

in, causing us to let go the anchor in Worser Bay, where we remained for the night.

The next morning the weather had moderated sufficiently for us to make a start. On getting through Cook's Straits, we made sail, and did a little sounding and dredging, but after a few days out, a gale drove us fast to the northward, and so prevented our completing the section, which had been so much desired; as the similarity of the flora of New Zealand to that of its neighbouring lands indicates that they were at one time joined, and that New Zealand was part of a large continent embracing the islands to the south and east of it, and also the Kermadec group and Norfolk and Lord Howe's Islands, near the Australian shore. If the weather had been favourable, a few soundings would have helped to settle this interesting question.

On the 13th we passed within a short distance of a dangerous reef, indicated as Esperanza Rock, and at daylight the next morning land was seen, and proved to be the islands comprising the Kermadec group. They were first reported by Admiral d'Entrecasteaux, who saw them on March 15, 1793. This cluster of rocky islets, from their hidden reefs, &c., is to be avoided rather than approached. The largest, Sunday Island, is not more than 12 miles in circumference: its highest point is 1627 feet above the level of the sea, presenting a rugged and steep appearance. Until recently an American family was