

tion, and from six to ten miles in breadth. It is of a very fertile character, well wooded, with a high range on its western part, and numerous appearances of streams, or where water may be found after rain. The island is apparently thickly inhabited, and the natives in character and appearance resemble the inhabitants of Mai Island.

"Namuku Islet, off the centre of the south side of Api Island, rises to the height of 500 feet, and forms a conspicuous object.

"Lopevi Island resembles Star or Meralaba Island in appearance, but with a sharper cone. The crater was very active, and only a few inhabitants and but little vegetation remain.

Ambrym Island.—The population appeared to be numerous, and the natives at the village on the north part of the island appeared very friendly; but at other places arrows were occasionally shot at the Bishop's boat, probably in consequence of some injury received at the hands of traders. The canoes, like those of other islands of the group, are clumsily made, and would probably contain ten or twelve men.

Mallicollo Island.—The north-east coast of this island is bordered with a succession of islets and fringe reefs, which in some places run out some distance. At the Islet of Orumbau, which has a white sandy beach along its N.E. face, and somewhat bluff at its S.E. extreme, the reef projects about half a mile from its northern end. This islet, which lies in lat. $16^{\circ} 4' S.$, long. $167^{\circ} 21' E.$, is covered with cocoa-nut trees, and has a good landing-place on a steep beach at its inner or western side, with deep water close to the beach. The natives were friendly on the only occasion the islet was visited; from 200 to 300 were assembled on the beach, and the island may possibly contain about 500 inhabitants.

St. Esprit Island.—The Bay of St. Philip is not so deep as it appears on the charts; the position of the mouth of the River Jordan, which flows into the head of the bay, was found to be in lat. $15^{\circ} 9' 41'' S.$, long. $166^{\circ} 53' 15'' E.$

This is a most convenient place for watering, as the boats pull into the river, where any quantity of good fresh water may be obtained. The ordinary trade-wind comes beautifully fresh and cool over the land, whilst the temperature is about 4° lower than in other parts of the group, and occasionally sea breezes from northward contend with the trade-winds when light.

Lepers Island.—The magnificent mountain of this island, rising to the height of 4,000 feet, resembles a whale's back in outline, and from the sea assumes a most imposing appearance.

An abundance of yams and cocoa-nuts are grown on the island, but in consequence of the swell on all the beaches it is difficult to land a ship's boat, and the natives, though apparently energetic, have not yet accustomed themselves to bring off supplies in their canoes, which, though numerous, are small.

Pentecost, or Whitsuntide Island, lies N.N.W. and S.S.E., with moderately high ranges, and occasional fringe reefs on its western or lee side, extending in some cases half a mile off shore. There are two good watering-places towards the south-west end of the island, where boats may lie a few fathoms off running streams; but it should be borne in mind that the beds of the streams are liable to change after heavy rains. It is apparently more thickly populated and highly cultivated than the neighbouring island of Aurora.

Communication was established with the natives at Vunmarama, a village at the north-west point of the island, where, in general, a good supply of yams, &c., may be obtained. At the southern portion of the island the canoes are large, and the people dark, tall, and muscular.

BANKS ISLANDS.

These lie to the northward of the New Hebrides, between the latitudes of $13^{\circ} 16'$ and $14^{\circ} 10' S.$, and between $167^{\circ} 17'$ and $168^{\circ} 34' E.$

Vanua Lava, the largest of the Banks Islands, is fifteen miles in length north and south, and is a remarkable looking island, with several high rounded mountains, the highest, to the north-west, being some 2,800 feet above the sea. In the Suretamiti Mountain are several hot springs always steaming, whilst a stream impregnated with sulphur runs down to the sea on the north-west coast, and a similar one falls into Port Patteson on the eastern side. There are two waterfalls on the western side, one single and the other double. The population of Vanua Lava amounts to about 1,500; the natives were quiet and friendly.

Santa Maria, or Gana Island.—The second largest of the Banks Islands, lies between the parallels $14^{\circ} 12'$ and $14^{\circ} 22' S.$, and between the meridians $167^{\circ} 23'$ and $167^{\circ} 36' E.$ The main range of mountains, about 2,000 feet high, lies on an east and west direction, and, excepting on the south side, where the land falls in ridges, the slopes are regular to the shore; the island is well wooded and cultivated, but during the usual trade-winds landing would be very difficult, even if practicable, on the southern and eastern sides.

The information respecting this island is somewhat limited, owing to the quarrelsome nature of the inhabitants of the western side, who seldom failed to shoot arrows after the boat on her leaving the shore. This occurred at Lakona, a village near the waterfall at the north end of the western bay. Although the natives at Lakona proved themselves unfriendly, those at Losolava, Avire, and Tarosag were disposed to be friendly to strangers, though quarrelling amongst themselves. The population appeared to be great, but the island cannot be recommended to strangers for obtaining supplies, in consequence of the uncertain nature of communication with inhabitants.

Mota, or Sugar-Loaf Island, is about eight or ten miles in circumference, and derives its English name from its peculiar shape. It lies about nine miles to the eastward of Port Patteson, in lat. $13^{\circ} 49' S.$, long. $167^{\circ} 39' 30'' E.$, and attains an elevation of 1,350 feet. The island is better known by Bishop Patteson than any other; the inhabitants are quite friendly, and some of them understand a little English. The number of villages amount to forty-two, with an aggregate population of about 2,000, but no recognized chiefs. The weapons of the natives consist of spears, clubs, bows, and poisoned arrows. Fruit, sugar-cane, taro, potatoes, and yams, and occasionally pigs, are to be procured; the articles of barter being beads, fish-hooks (very small fish-hooks at Mota), calico, and axes.

Valua, or Saddle Island, lies between lat. $13^{\circ} 36'$ and $13^{\circ} 41' S.$, and long. $167^{\circ} 34'$ and $167^{\circ} 41' E.$, and is about eight miles long, north-east and south-west.