

NEW DISCOVERIES.

THE NEW HEBRIDES.

THIS name was given by Capt. Cook, to a cluster of islands, the most northerly of which was seen by Quiros, the Spanish navigator, in 1606, and by him named Tierra del Espiritu Santo. From that time till Bougainville's voyage in 1768, and Capt. Cook's voyage in the Endeavour, in 1769, this land was supposed to be part of a great southern continent, called *Terra Australis incognita*. But when Capt. Cook had sailed round New Zealand, and along the eastern coast of New Holland, this opinion was fully confuted. On his next voyage, in the Resolution, he resolved to explore those parts accurately; and accordingly, in 1774, besides ascertaining the extent and situation of these islands, he discovered several in the group, which were before $14^{\circ} 29'$, and $20^{\circ} 4'$ south; and between $169^{\circ} 41'$, and $170^{\circ} 21'$ east longitude. They consist of the following islands, some of which have received names from the different European navigators, and others retain the names which they bear among the natives, viz. Tierra del Espiritu Santo, Malicola, St. Bartholomew, Isle of Lepers, Aurora, Whitsuntide, Abrym, Immer, Apeee, Three Hills, Sandwich, Montagu, Hinchinbrook, Shepherd, Eorromanga, Ironan, Annatom, and Tanna.

Tierra del Espiritu Santo, is the western and largest of all the Hebrides, being 22 leagues long and 60 in circuit. On the west side, it is high and mountainous; in many places it rises directly from the sea. Except the cliffs and beaches, it is covered with wood or laid out in plantations. The natives are naked, wearing only a girdle, with large leaves hanging to it. Their colour is dark; their hair short; their canoes small. The head of the bay of St. Philip's, and St. Jago, is in lat. $15^{\circ} 22'$ N.

The island next in magnitude is Malicola; it is 18 leagues in length; has a deep bay on the S. W. side, which Capt. Cook named Port Sandwich. It is an island, fertile and well peopled. On the coast, the land is low, descending with a gentle slope from the hills in the centre of the island. The cocoa-nut tree, bread fruit, banana, and yams, are common.

St. Bartholomew lies north of Malicola, 8 miles distant. The middle of this island is in lat. $15^{\circ} 48'$ S.

The Isle of Lepers lies 3 leagues from Aurora, in lat. $15^{\circ} 22'$, under the same meridian as the S. E. end of Malicola. The land is very high, 18 or 20 leagues in circuit. The natives are of a dark colour, and go naked.

Aurora is 11 leagues in length, two or three broad; the surface is hilly, covered with wood; except where the natives have formed plantations. Cocoa-nut trees spread themselves to the summit of the hills.

Tanna is 8 leagues long, 4 broad. It has a remarkable volcano, the flames of which are luminous in the night; a rumbling noise attends the explosion.

The other islands of this group have nothing very remarkable to distinguish them; all are inhabited by a friendly, honest people.