

we ceased to see the land. Quiros, discovered first, in 1606, the south end of this chain of islands, which extend W. N. W. and among which admiral Roggewein found himself engaged in 1722, in about  $15^{\circ}$  lat. he called them the *Labyrinth*. Upon the whole, I know not on what grounds our geographers lay down after these isles, a beginning of land seen, as they say, by Quiros, and to which they give seventy leagues of extent. All that can be inferred from the Journal of this navigator is, that the first place he *landed* at, after his departure from Peru, was eight leagues in extent. But far from considering it as a considerable coast, he says, that the savages who inhabit it, gave him to understand, that he should find great countries in his way \*. If any considerable land existed hereabouts, we could not fail meeting with it; as the least latitude we were hitherto arrived at, was  $17^{\circ} 40'$  S. which is the same that Quiros observed on this very coast, whereof the geographers have been pleased to make a great continent.

I agree, that it is difficult to conceive such a number of low islands, and almost drowned lands, without supposing a continent near it. But Geography is a science

\* The continent, which the geographers place in these parts, ought to have been laid down only as a sign of land, which Quito says he met with the 27th of January 1606. But these signs of continent Quiros found before he came to the isle of Sagittaria, which is the first he landed at, after sailing from Peru. See Mr. Dalrymple's *Historical Collection of Voyages in the South Pacific Ocean*, part i. 107, 108. and the chart of the South Seas annexed. F