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January 21, 1954.

Mr. H.E. Maude,
South Pacific Commission,
Box 5254, G.P.O.,
SYDNEY. NEW SOUTH WALES.

RECEIVED
4 FEB 1954
1529 wc1/b/33
Ans'd.

Dear Mr. Maude,

Thank you verymuch indeed for your letter of 22nd December. With the lead that you gave me, I was able to find out the following details about the Independence in the report for 1875-6 of the United States Commission of Fish and Fisheries. She was a ship of 352 tons, owned by Aaron Mitchell (hence Mitchell group?), left Nantucket for New Zealand on 23 July 1819, and returned on 16 June 1822, Captain Barrett having died on the voyage. Thus, although 1821, the date of discovery of Nukulaelae given in the New York Times is not proved by this information, it is at least a possibility. This report lists all known vessels from the inception of the United States Whaling industry (the first entries are for 1784), and I did not find a reference to Captain Barrett's having commanded the Independence before his 1819-22 voyage.

I was interested in your comment about the Admiralty. I had thought they might be able to give me the date of the earliest map they have on which the Mitchell group is recorded, but as the discovery appears to have been American, there seems little point in writing to them.

Your promise of life-long indebtedness if I should be able to find out something about the naming of the Kingsmill Islands has spurred me on to look into the question! You have probably long since investigated and rejected the only references I could find, but it might be worth my mentioning them.

In an article on the Gilbert Islands in the Geographical Journal for October, 1895, p.333, C.M. Woodford says "I fancy that the name of Kingsmill Islands, as applied to the Gilbert group, also originated with the voyage of the Nautilus, as, although the name was not mentioned by Gilbert or Marshall, I find it used in a large map of the world on Mercator's projection,

by Heather, dated 1803." There are two paragraphs and notes with references to the voyage of the Nautilus. Woodford had not been able to find a journal of the voyage, but he had located a chart at the India Office.

With reference to the name Kingsmill, there is, in the Naval Chronicle, vol. 5, 1801, pp.189-212, a biographical memoir of Admiral Sir Robert Brice Kingsmill (1730?-1805) who had distinguished himself in several naval engagements, and in his capacity as commander-in-chief of the coast of Ireland from 1793-1800, when he captured many vessels which were out to harm England's trade. He was made a baron in 1800.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret H. Breadhead

Reference Librarian.