

shoal was found in the place where the ship had struck, and we had the satisfaction of knowing that we had destroyed it without injury to the vessel.

The tender had arrived before us, and I found also here the British vessel *Currency Lass*. This harbour, when it is reached, is a safe one, and is well protected by the reefs.

Nukualofa is a station of the Wesleyan Mission, the heads of which, Messrs. Tucker and Rabone, paid me a visit, and from them I learnt that the Christian and Devil's parties were on the point of hostilities; that *Taufaahau* or King George, of *Vavao*, had arrived with eight hundred warriors, for the purpose of carrying on the war, and putting an end to it.

The islands of *Tongataboo* and *Eooa* are the two southern islands of the *Hapai Group* (the *Friendly Isles of Cook*); the former is a low, level island, while that of *Eooa* is high. The highest part of *Tongataboo* is only sixty feet above the level of the sea, while that of *Eooa* rises about six hundred feet; the strait between them is eight miles wide. *Tonga* is extremely fruitful, and covered with foliage, and contains ten thousand inhabitants; while that of *Eooa* is rocky and barren, and contains only two hundred inhabitants.

Believing that I might exert an influence to reconcile the parties, and through my instrumentality restore the blessings of peace, I proffered my services to that effect, which were warmly accepted by the Reverend Mr. Tucker. I therefore sent a message to the chiefs of the Christian party, to meet me in *fono* in the morning, and late at night received a notice that they would be prepared to receive me. On the morning of the 24th, I landed, with all the officers that could be spared from other duties; we were received on the beach by Mr. Tucker, and were at once surrounded by a large number of natives. It was impossible not to be struck with the great difference between these people and those we had just left in *New Zealand*; nothing of the morose and savage appearance so remarkable there, was seen; here all was cheerfulness and gaiety; all appeared well-fed and well-formed, with full faces and muscles. The number of children particularly attracted our notice, in striking contrast to the *New Zealand* groups, where few but men were seen. In a few minutes we heard the native drum, calling the warriors and people together; we went a short distance along the beach, passed into the fortification, and up a gentle acclivity, on the top of which is now the Mission church, and the house of King *Tubou*. On our way up we passed by the drum, or as it is here called, *toki*, which is a large hollow log, not unlike a pig-trough, made of hard, sonorous wood; it is struck with a mallet,