

CHAPTER IV.

R E W A.

1840.

WHEN the Peacock left the harbour of Levuka for Rewa, it was for the purpose of visiting that town and inducing the King of Rewa to sign the Feejee regulations, and also to carry on the surveys in that quarter. (The instructions will be found in Appendix VI.) The Peacock left Levuka on the 15th May, and reached Rewa at noon the next day. The harbour of Rewa is formed by two small islands, called Nukalou and Mukalou, with their attached coral reefs, and has three passages into it. The two southern ones are safe, though narrow, but the northern one is much obstructed with coral lumps. The port is a secure one, and the anchorage, which is off the island of Nukalou, is about three miles from the mouth of Wailevu, or Peale's river, and six from the town of Rewa, which is situated on a low piece of land, which the river, passing on each side of it, has formed into an island. The east point of Vitilevu is low, and is divided by several small and unimportant streams, which we had not time to examine; there is, also, at high water, a passage for canoes through one of them to Ambau, which lies ten miles to the northward.

The launch and first cutter of the Peacock, under Lieutenant Emons and Passed Midshipman Blunt, were found here, having advanced thus far in their surveying operations. They had passed around the bay of Ambau, stopped at the town, and met with rather an unfriendly reception there; the chiefs refused to give them any water unless paid for, on account, as they said, of our trade-master not paying a higher price for the yams they carried him. For this reason the chiefs were in a bad humour, and had refused a supply of water to the boats.

Ambau is a singular-looking place. It occupies a small island, which is entirely covered with houses, among which the mbure stands