

was very near involving them in difficulties; and had it not been for the timely caution of Charley, there is little doubt but a disaster would have happened to them. The two boats were under charge of Lieutenant Underwood and Passed Midshipman Sinclair. In the foremost of them was a chief of the island, in the latter was Charley. Lieutenant Underwood approached the shore-reef, with the intention of getting some hogs and yams, which he had sent the natives to seek; but they would not trade unless the boats landed, and this Lieutenant Carr had expressly ordered Lieutenant Underwood not to do. When the natives discovered they could not be induced to land, they collected in great numbers, headed by a chief, became very noisy, and showed signs of hostility. Lieutenant Underwood, notwithstanding the precautionary orders, was unprepared to meet an attack; and the necessity of resorting to their arms was only thought of, when Charley called out, "You had better stand to your arms, gentlemen; they are after mischief." Upon this the boat was immediately hauled out. *When the arms were displayed, the natives took to their heels.*

According to Charley, these islanders, not long since, seized a boat belonging to a trader, and, after plundering it, would only liberate the crew on receiving a large ransom. Such appears to have been the over-confidence and carelessness of some of the officers on these boat duties, that they neglected not only the strict orders, to be at all times prepared, but likewise needlessly put in jeopardy the lives of the men entrusted to them. It is now, on looking back, a wonder to me that we escaped accident so long as we did, and certainly not extraordinary *that one did at last happen. I am well satisfied, that had full attention been paid to the orders given, and specially impressed upon all, no disaster could have happened.*

Lieutenant Carr, finding that his time was almost expired, determined to proceed to Ovolau, by passing close to the Mothea Reef, off the southern point of Nairai. On the 25th, the tender anchored at Levuka. On receiving Lieutenant Carr's report, I immediately despatched him to survey the passage round the western side of Ovolau. The eastern portion, together with the harbour of Levuka, had already been completed by the Vincennes. Lieutenant Carr had, in the performance of this duty, reached the island of Moturiki, when the time allotted for the purpose had expired. He accordingly left the two boats under Lieutenant Underwood, to complete the remaining part of the work, which occupied them two days, during which time, it appears, from Passed Midshipman May's account, they had another narrow escape from disaster, under the following circum-