

until he could comply with this custom. He was, as I afterwards learned, the bearer of a message to the king of Muthuata, to claim his daughter as a wife for old Tanoa.

It is not at all surprising that the chiefs and people of Ambau should be so much detested by the inhabitants of the group. As an instance of the outrages they are in the habit of committing, Rivalletta, after refusing to visit the ship and the observatory, went to a village on the mountains, from which the inhabitants fled with their valuables for fear of losing them. Failing thus in his intention of plunder, he immediately set fire to the town, and left it a heap of ruins. He departed the same day for Vanua-levu.

The tender having returned to Ovolau, I made preparations to leave that place.

The launch and cutter under Lieutenant Alden and Passed Midshipman Knox, had also returned from the survey of the north side of Vitilevu, as far as its west end, and of Malolo. Lieutenant Alden reported the natives of the latter island as being extremely hostile to the whites, and having a very bad character.

A native stole a knife from one of the men. Tui Levuka proposed killing him, but was told not to do so: the thief was taken on board, and confined for two days, when he was released, as I did not think his guilt was sufficiently established. The moment he was free he jumped overboard and swam on shore.

The schooner Currency Lass, which we had seen at Tonga, arrived on the 30th, bringing me letters from Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold, by which I learned they were all well, and proceeding rapidly with their work. The Currency Lass, since she had left Tonga, had been at Wallis Island (Uea), where the Roman Catholic missionaries had succeeded in gaining over one half of the population. The Devil's men had attacked the converts, and had laid a plan to cut off the schooner. The missionaries, however, gave timely notice of it, and the abrupt departure of the vessel was the only thing that saved her, which the wind fortunately enabled her to accomplish, for a large number of canoes had approached the vessel, and were waiting for a reinforcement, when they intended to make the attack. The services of the Catholic priests on board the Currency Lass not being required by their brethren, they afterwards went to Hoorn Island, where they were landed and kindly received by the natives.

Not being able to spare the services of Lieutenant Carr as first lieutenant, I transferred him to the Vincennes, and ordered Lieutenant Case to the tender. Lieutenant Carr was put in charge of the observatory, while Lieutenant Alden in the launch, and Mr. Knox in