

to pass the night there. Its only inhabitants were goats, which we drove from a cave, in which we built our fire, and made ourselves comfortable for the night, keeping two men on guard to prevent surprise. The tender did not reach the anchorage until late. On anchoring, they made signals, but I was snug in the cave and did not see or hear them, and of course they got no answer. Lieutenant Case and the officers on board became uneasy, for there was shouting and yelling on shore, with war-songs and dances, as at their cannibal feasts; and it required but little imagination in the vicinity of such a people as the Feejees, to give birth to the idea that we had been surprised and cut off. They had their boarding-nettings triced up, and spent a very uncomfortable night. At daylight, however, they discovered the gig under Goat Island, and I joined them soon after. In the forenoon I visited the missionaries, Messrs. Hunt and Lythe, with their ladies. They were living in a large house, formerly occupied by the king, called Tui Thakau. As he was an old man and incapable of moving about, I at once called upon him. He was a fine specimen of a Feejee Islander, and bore no slight resemblance to our ideas of an old Roman. His figure was particularly tall and manly, and he had a head fit for a monarch. The king's oldest son now exercises all the powers of king; he is a large, well-made, and truly savage-looking fellow; and from the accounts of the missionaries and others, his temper and disposition correspond with his looks. His name is Tui Illa-illa.

Somu-somu, although one of the chief towns of Feejee, acknowledges a sort of subjection to Ambau. The cause of this is found in an ancient tradition of a contest between their respective tutelary spirits, in which the spirit of Somu-somu was overcome, and compelled to perform the *tama* or salute due to a superior, to the god of Ambau.

The town of Somu-somu contains about two hundred houses, which are more straggling than any I had yet seen. It is partly built below a bluff, which affords a very safe retreat and strong defence to its inhabitants, and is divided, therefore, into a lower and upper town. The old *mbure* near the missionaries' house is nearly gone to decay. Here was found the only carved image I saw in the group; it was a small figure cut out of solid wood, and the missionaries did not seem to think that it was regarded by the people with any reverence. The priest appears to have taken up his abode with the old king, and was apparently held in great reverence.

The town is situated on the northwest side of the island of Vuna, which is separated from the island of Vanua-levu, or the large land, by a strait five miles wide in its narrowest part, which I have called