

decomposition. Deep chasms were occasionally met with. The whole is partially covered with vines and creepers, and the shore was lined with mangroves.

The men enjoyed the opportunity of a walk on shore, and also the chance of bathing. Old Thaki, with many expressions of regret, brought off a hatchet and gimlet that had been stolen the day before, and had not yet been missed. These islanders are particularly anxious to obtain iron tools, and seem to prefer the axes of American manufacture to those of England, considering the former more serviceable.

On the 22d, they sailed, and continued the surveys to the eastward, towards the Bocatatanoa, or Argo Reef. Besides the brig *Argo*, another vessel, by the name of the *Harriet*, is said to have been lost here. According to Thaki's report, all hands from one of these vessels were killed, while only a few from the other escaped. He remembers the occurrence, but it was a long time ago. This extensive reef was examined, when Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold, having heard of the arrival of the *Flying-Fish*, with a pilot and despatches, returned to Lakemba.

Here they took on board *Tubou Totai* and *Corodowdow*, with their suites, whom I have mentioned before, as having been left by the *Flying-Fish*, the former to act as pilot.

It is remarkable that, up to this time, in all their trials of the current, they had found it setting to the eastward about half a mile per hour, varying in direction from east-northeast to east-southeast. This fact is confirmed by the information obtained from the natives, that canoes which are wrecked to the westward are always drifted upon these islands.

On the 28th, Mr. Totten and Dr. Holmes were despatched on shore, to ascend *Kendi-kendi*, the highest peak of the island of Lakemba, for the purpose of making observations and getting its height by sympiesometer. The altitude was thus found to be seven hundred and fourteen feet. The ascent was not difficult, for a regular path led to the highest point. The ruins of a town were found on it, called *Tumboa*, from which the Tonga chiefs of the family of *Tubou Totai* are supposed to have derived their name, as has been before mentioned. This town was occupied for the purpose of defence against their enemies, both Tongese and Feejees.

Mr. Calvert and his lady received them most kindly at the mission, as they had already done the other officers. The house and out-buildings are comfortable, and the church, which stands near the mission-house, is a good building, eighty feet long by thirty-two wide, and