

It has only a small reef attached to it on one side, the other side being free. It offers no facilities for the visit of vessels. Naiau contains a population of two hundred inhabitants, who are perched upon inaccessible peaks, in order to protect themselves from depredations.

Tabutha is thirty miles north of Lakemba. It has a remarkable peak, which rises on its northwest end, and is the Cap Island of the charts. A reef surrounds it, in which there are two boat-entrances on the southwest and northwest sides. There are on it about ninety inhabitants: it has no water except from wells. Tubou Totai says that this island belongs to him, he having received it as a present from the king of Lakemba. There are two small reefs, called Mamouko, to the southwest of it, which can be closely approached, and have a passage between them. They are three miles from the island, south-southwest (true).

To the eastward of Tabutha lies the small island of Aro. This is a very pretty island, and has three reefs in its neighbourhood,—one lying northeast seven miles; another, east half south two and a half miles; the third, south half east two and a half miles. This small island is only inhabited during the turtle season, which begins in October and ends in February.

Chichia lies twenty miles to the northwest of Naiau. It is nearly circular, is three miles in diameter, and a shore-reef extends around it, with no opening but for canoes. Some of its points are three hundred feet high. It is in places thickly wooded, and has about three hundred inhabitants. There is a small reef to the southwest, with a passage between it and the island. The soil is rich, and every thing is produced in abundance. Extensive cocoa-nut groves clothe its low points.

Mango is another small island, eighteen miles to the north-northeast of Chichia. It is remarkable for an open space near its centre, which appears as if it had been artificially cleared. It is surrounded by a reef, which has a break on the northwest side, but affords no protection for vessels. The southern part of the reef extends off about a mile, and has two small islets in it. It affords no shelter, and there is no water except from wells. Its shape is an oval, whose longest diameter is three miles, and its shortest two. There is a distinct reef, which lies northwest-by-north, four miles from it.

Vekai, Katafanga, and the reef of Malevuvu, all three lying north of Tabutha, were next examined.

Vekai is six miles from Tabutha. It is a low islet, with an extensive reef lying on its northwest side, and is resorted to during the turtle season.