

This entrance appears to be unknown, and leads to a harbour which I called Baino, after a town that Tubou informed me was near by. It offers good anchorage, being protected by the coral reef, which extends off some distance. After the tender had fired guns for fixing our base line, a signal was made for her to get under way and proceed to Fawn Harbour, four miles to leeward, and anchor at sunset. We joined her there, having brought up our work. This has been called Fawn Harbour after the name of an American brig, which was wrecked on the reef. In attempting to beat out, she missed stays and went ashore.

Tubou and Corodowdow requested permission to go on shore and spend the night, which I readily gave them, and proposed to Tubou to accompany them. On consultation, they said they did not think it safe for me to do this, for the people were wild and savage, and "there were no gentlemen there." The town is called Tuconreva; it is situated in a pretty cocoa-nut grove, and has a stream of water near it.

In the morning early we surveyed this small harbour; and the two chiefs having returned on board, we started on our surveys of the coast. From the appearance of Tubou and Corodowdow, I thought I could perceive the reason why they did not wish my company: they evidently had been carousing. The tender at the commencement gave us our base by sound, and we proceeded on our survey, leaving her to get under way, with orders to anchor at Savu-savu. We continued our work all day, and passed only one opening in the reef, which is near the small islet of Rativa, and offers little accommodation for any class of vessels. It is opposite the town of Nabouni. Lieutenant Case and myself stopped for an hour or two to obtain our latitude, on one of the small islets, where we found the natives building a canoe. They at first seemed uneasy at our presence, but soon became more familiar, and finally were disposed to take liberties. I had taken the precaution to keep two of the men under arms on guard, and would not permit the savages to approach near the boats.

In the afternoon I observed for chronometer sights on the small island of Rativa. Two miles beyond this, the reef joined the shore. Mr. Sinclair having conjectured that I had received erroneous information respecting the distance to Savu-savu, returned to this point to pick us up before dark, and finding an opening in the reef sufficient for small vessels, we took advantage of it to join the tender. I at first intended to anchor in this little harbour for the night; but when I reflected how necessary it was for me to return to Levuka, I determined, after getting on board, to take advantage of the strong breeze, and push direct for Ovolau, and at ten o'clock the next morning anchored at Levuka, where I found all well.