

toise-shell, and exceeds in quantity that of any other island of the group; its population is two thousand.

The Horseshoe Reef lies between Goro, Nairai, and Wakaia; it is an extremely dangerous one. The name is derived from its shape, and its opening is on the north side; it is even with the water, which after stormy weather may be seen breaking on it, from the heights of Ovolau; it is one mile in diameter; there are no other dangers nearer to it than the north reef of Nairai.

On the 4th of July, I suspended work, and gave the crew liberty to go on shore, which they enjoyed greatly, and amused themselves with playing at ball and other exercises. Many of them scalded and cleaned their pork in the hot water at the coral rocks.

On our first arrival here, few natives made their appearance, but we soon had a number of them around us from all parts of the bay. Some of these from the west side were savage and wild-looking fellows. There were, in all, about two hundred, and the females were much better looking than those we had heretofore seen. The latter danced for us; if the motions of their arms and legs, and clapping of their hands to a kind of chaunt, resembling that of the Jews in their synagogue, deserve to be so denominated. Their mode of dress is much the same as in the other parts of the group.

Among all this number we did not see one man over forty years of age; and on asking for the old people, we were told they were all buried!

The district of Savu-savu, from the best estimate I could obtain, contains about two thousand three hundred inhabitants. This district includes the part of the south coast of Vanua-levu, from Fawn Harbour, in the Tukonreva district, to Nemean Point, about eight miles west of the town of Savu-savu; it contains seventeen koros or towns.

To the westward of Savu-savu district is Wailevu, which extends beyond Kombelau, where the chief resides. He is said to have one hundred towns under him. This is, undoubtedly, an exaggeration, although his district is populous, and from information I received, the number of people under his rule may be set down as nearly seven thousand. These two districts are entirely independent of the great chief of the Feejees. The inhabitants are a fine-looking race of men, and we were told that they are well disposed towards the whites. The young women are the best-looking of any I have met with in the group, and are treated with more consideration and equality than is usual among these islands.

The natives about Savu-savu evinced much greater curiosity respecting us than we had heretofore remarked, and those from the bay