

are particularly wild-looking. As elsewhere, when asked about the people of the interior, they describe them as being ferocious and cruel, saying that they go entirely naked, wearing no tapa; are very large and strong, eating roots and wild berries. They invariably connect something marvellous with their accounts; but on closely questioning these men, they all agreed that they had never seen one, and, from all the inquiries I have made through the missionaries, natives and whites, I am satisfied there are very few, if any, inhabitants that dwell permanently in the mountains. It is contrary to the usual habits of the Feejees, and those of all the groups in the Pacific. The climate of the mountains is too cold and wet, and entirely unsuited to their tastes and habits; so far from seeking the high lands, they are invariably found inhabiting the fruitful valleys, and only in times of danger and war resort to neighbouring inaccessible peaks, to protect themselves against their more powerful adversaries. Their food is almost exclusively produced in the low grounds and along the sea-shore, for it consists principally of fish, taro, yams, and cocoa-nuts, and the latter, as has been before observed, seldom reach maturity even at the altitude of six hundred feet.

The bay of Savu-savu may be known by a remarkable saddle-shaped peak, lying just behind it; there are several other high peaks, that show the interior to be very rugged and high. Some of these peaks reach the altitude of four thousand feet.

On the evening of the 4th, Lieutenant Case returned, having finished the survey, connecting his work on with Rativa Island. There was no harbour found along this shore, except for very small vessels and boats.

Lieutenant Alden, in the Flying-Fish, was now directed to proceed and examine some reefs on the north side of Vitilevu, that he reported having seen from the top of the Annan Islands, and also to examine the offing for reefs. He sailed on this duty at ten o'clock at night.

At daylight on the 5th, the Vincennes got under way to proceed to Mbua or Sandalwood Bay, with a moderate and favourable breeze. I determined to take the outside passage off Kombelau Point, although that usually pursued, which is close to the land, is considered the safest. There is a reef off Kombelau Island, five miles in length by two in width; and beyond, and between it and the great Passage Island Reef, there is a passage supposed to be full of shoals. I had reason to believe, however, from the examination of Lieutenant Perry and Mr. De Haven, that there would be no difficulty in taking the ship through, which I accordingly did. This channel has shoals in it, some with but a few feet of water over them, while others have sufficient for any class of vessels. The least water we had was nine