

served. This island is eight hundred feet high, and on the top are the remains of a fortification of stone, whose walls are four feet high, surrounded by a moat several feet deep, and ten feet wide. From this height the passages through the reefs were very distinctly seen, and could be traced for a long distance. On presents being distributed to all the natives who were present, it was amusing to see the young son of a chief, according to the custom of his country, very deliberately taking possession of the whole, and rolling them up in his maro.

On the 3d, they were still beating up for the Malaki Passage, and were in hopes of being able to pass out of it; but the wind being ahead, it was found too narrow to beat through. After sustaining two sharp thumps, it was deemed advisable to return and await a more favourable opportunity. Some of the officers again landed on a small island of much less height than Malaki, but nothing interesting was found. It had evidently been inhabited, from the overgrown and deserted plantations which were every where to be seen. The island was, for the most part, covered with a sweet-scented grass, (*Andropogon schœnanthus*.)

They had now been seven days upon this coast, with the wind blowing directly along it, and had only made about fifty miles. This channel through the reefs must always be fatiguing and wearing to both vessel and crew. For the whole distance they found the bottom a white clay, and the depth of water varying from five to twenty fathoms. As they approached the windward side of the island, they found the weather to become more rainy, and the winds much stronger.

On the 5th, at daylight, they passed out of the reef and stood over for Mbua or Sandalwood Bay. The weather during the day set in stormy, so much so as to make their situation not only unpleasant but dangerous, in consequence of the many reefs by which they were surrounded, and which they had to pass through before reaching their destination. These reefs on the shores of Vanua-levu, in the most favourable times, are dangerous, but particularly so in thick and stormy weather. Fortunately, when near the passage, they were able to see the land for a short time, and soon after reached their destination in safety.

In passing into the bay they discovered the buoy I had left for Captain Hudson, with the despatches enclosed in a bottle, and had it brought on board.

Lieutenant Underwood joined them soon after, and set out the next morning with the ship's rudder-pintles for Captain Belcher. Captain Hudson then sent a boat to the town for the king or one of the princi-