

by thick mangrove-bushes, among which many women and children were seen catching a large kind of crab, whilst flocks of paroquets were flying around them. This river is about two hundred feet wide, and very tortuous.

The town, named Vaturua, is situated about a mile up the river. The entrance to it is through a hollow way, to pass through which it was almost necessary to creep.

They were warned of their approach to it by the chattering of the women and children, who were assembled in numbers to greet their arrival. The village is about two hundred yards from the bank of the river; it is surrounded with palisades of cocoa-nut trees and other timber, and a ditch, with gates, &c., very much on the same plan as that observed by us at Moa on the island of Tongataboo. It contains fifty or sixty houses, among which are several mbures. In some of their houses graves were observed, which the natives said were placed there to protect them from their neighbours. They seemed the most good-natured set we had yet met with, and appeared quite familiar with the whites. This was, however, to have been expected; for their intercourse with foreigners has been, until recently, more frequent than that of any other part of the group. It is here that so large a quantity of sandalwood has been shipped.

It was said that the chief, Tui Mora, had even made the people break up their canoes for the purpose of constructing the palisades to fortify the village, and thus at the same time to prevent his people from deserting to his enemy.

On their landing they saw an albino, who had the features of his countrymen, although he resembled the lower class of Irish, so much so that the sailors jocosely remarked that a blunder had been committed by his having been born in a wrong country. His skin was a dirty white, and fairer than that of an European would be if exposed to the sun; he was marked with many brown spots, about the size of a sixpence or less; his hair was of the same colour as that of the natives who use lime-water for cleaning it; his eyebrows and eyelashes were of a flaxen colour; his eyes were almost constantly closed, as if the light affected them; the iris was blue, with no tinge of red. On a subsequent visit he had dyed his hair a coal-black, which gave him an odd and ludicrous appearance. The natives called him Areea. He was about thirty years of age.

The white men say that albinos are not unfrequently seen. I saw a man who was partially so, having an appearance as if he had been scalded about the face and upper part of his body. Dr. Pickering suggests that it is not improbable that the white individuals reported to