

In the afternoon Captain Hudson got under way, although nearly all the officers and men were still at work on the survey, and anchored the ship off the northern point of Mbua Bay. This point is called Dimba-dimba, and is considered by the natives as sacred ground; it is kept strictly from any kind of disturbance, for it is supposed to be inhabited by the spirits of the departed, and to be the place where they embark for the regions of Ndengei. It is a most beautiful spot, and in strong contrast with the surrounding country, which is in many places devoid of trees, while here they flourish as nature has planted them. The ground gradually rises from the shore for a short distance, then succeeds abrupt precipices, of forty or fifty feet in height; and the land, as it recedes from the water, forms a kind of hanging garden, on which is seen a beautiful growth of large forest-trees, with here and there clumps of shrubbery of the tropical climates, which give it a peculiar aspect. The quiet and hallowed appearance was well calculated to keep up the impression that their priests have made upon them.

On the 11th, the Peacock again got under way, and passed along between the shore and reefs. Here large schools of fish were passed through, apparently of two kinds, a small and larger one, of which the former leaped entirely out of the water.

By the persuasion of the pilot, Captain Hudson was induced to attempt an outer passage, that the pilot thought existed round the island of Anganga; but after getting on coral knolls twice, Captain Hudson returned to the inshore channel, leading towards Ruke-ruke Bay, which is the next beyond Mbua.

There is a high and insulated peak north of Dimba-dimba Point, which has a town perched on its very top.

The bay of Ruke-ruke has a reef across its mouth, leaving only a narrow ship-channel into it. They anchored under Ivaca Peak, a high and bold bluff, whose height, by triangulation, is one thousand five hundred and sixty-three feet. On its top is also a town. The island of Anganga is immediately opposite to this peak. To the passage between them Captain Hudson proposed to give the name of Monkey-Face Passage, in consequence of one of the rocks having a remarkable resemblance to the face of that animal.

They visited the village of Wailea, now containing only fifty persons. A few years since most of the former inhabitants were exterminated by the warriors of Ambau, who frequently make excursions thus far.

On the 12th, they were under way at an early hour, and soon after passed the rock where Captain Dillon's adventure occurred. Captain Eagleston, of the Leonidas, came on board, and piloted them to Naloe