

rank is generally kept on board as a hostage. When these precautions have not been taken, accidents have frequently happened.

The biche de mar is sometimes carried to Canton, but more usually to Manilla, whence it is shipped to China.*

The bay of Nalua is a wide opening, protected on the north by two or three small islets, some of which are inhabited. One of them has been bought by the Lasikaus or fishermen, who gave Tui Mbua three hundred whales' teeth for it. It is not long since they settled on it, having been driven from their former location by the war-parties of the Ambau people, and taken refuge here.

Their town, Tavea, although of recent date, is already enveloped in a banana grove. The growth of these trees is well adapted for the purposes of the natives, and they seldom fail to plant them as soon as they begin to build, and by the time their houses are finished and occupied, they already yield shade for the planters to retire to in the heat of the day. The employment of fishing is considered one of the most honourable among the natives.

Veraki, the chief of Tavea, has the reputation among the whites of being "a hearty old cock and a great rascal."

On another of these islets, which is uninhabited, Captain Eagleston has his biche de mar house. The town of Votua on Vanua-levu has been the residence of Tui Mbua, since he was driven or expelled from Mbua Bay.

Captain Hudson was desirous of obtaining both wood and water, and made arrangements accordingly for their being brought off by the natives. This he succeeded in doing, because the chiefs are very willing that their subjects should work, when they have all the profit of their labour. The natives here were very friendly, and the chief desirous of serving us.

The town of Votua lies about a mile from the shore. It contains about fifty buildings, including temples, houses, and yam-houses, which

* In order to show the profits which arise from the trade in biche de mar, I give the cost and returns of five cargoes, obtained by Captain Eagleston in the Feejee Group. These he obligingly favoured me with.

	PICULS.	COST OF OUTFIT.	SALES.
1st voyage . . .	617 . . .	\$1,101 . . .	\$8,021
2d " . . .	700 . . .	1,200 . . .	17,500
3d " . . .	1,080 . . .	3,396 . . .	15,120
4th " . . .	840 . . .	1,200 . . .	12,600
5th " . . .	1,200 . . .	3,500 . . .	27,000

A further profit also arises from the investment of the proceeds in Canton. Captain Eagleston also obtained 4,488 pounds of tortoise-shell, at a cost of \$5,700, which sold in the United States for \$29,050 net.