

which this officer had performed his duty, and the energy and strictness with which both himself and his assistant, Passed Midshipman Blunt, carried out the service they were charged with.

On the 22d, the *Leonidas* went to Malitu, twenty-five miles to the eastward, where the chief Gingi was erecting a biche de mar house for Captain Eagleston. The same day two divisions of boats, the one under Lieutenant Walker and Midshipman Blair, the other under Lieutenant Budd, Passed Midshipman Reynolds, and Midshipman Hudson, started on surveying duty, the one to the eastward, the other westward from Kie Island, off Muthuata, on the north side of Vanualevu.

On the same day the old king of Muthuata sent off to Captain Hudson a present of eight turtles as a propitiation. Communication was now had with the town of Muthuata. It consists of about one hundred houses, built closely together, and is situated in an open valley close to high-water mark. It is very much exposed and quite defenceless; has but few trees about it, but is one of the best-built towns in the Feejees. The style of building resembles that of Rewa.

The king's name is Ndrandranda; his title, Tui Muthuata. He is old and quite infirm, the result of an attack of elephantiasis in one of his legs, which renders it difficult for him to walk. His expression of countenance is mild. As is usual, he is surrounded by his wives. The head one of these, whose title is "Yandi Muthuata," is one of the largest women, if not the very largest, in the Feejees. She is upwards of six feet high, very stout, and seems to understand her own dignity.

The second wife, called Henrietta, was a native of Rotuma, and spoke a little English. She had, while at her native island, been married to a Tahitian, who was residing there, and had gone with him to Tahiti. Thence, wishing to return to Rotuma, they had taken passage with Captain Eagleston, about five years before we saw her. On reaching Muthuata, they were induced to land and remain with some of her countrymen, of whom they found many at this place. Unfortunately, the king saw and took a liking to her, and, to remove all obstacles, killed and ate her husband, and compelled her to become his wife.

Henrietta is of a fair complexion and good-looking. In other respects she cannot be distinguished from the Feejee women; for her hair, which on her arrival was straight and black, has, by frizzling, twisting, and colouring, become like that of the natives of these islands. She is discontented with her position, and anxious to escape, which, however, she finds impossible.