

CHAPTER VIII.

TYE AND SUALIB.

1840.

UPON the junction of the Peacock with the Vincennes in Mbua Bay, I had it in my power to examine and collate all the work that we had thus far accomplished. After doing this, I found that so much yet remained to be done before a thorough survey of the Feejee Group could be completed, that I must either leave this important duty unfinished, or devote more time to it than had originally been contemplated. I deemed this to be among the most important of the objects of the Expedition; and considering that the seas around these islands abound in dangers whose position had up to this time been entirely unknown, I resolved not only to complete the surveys, but not to leave the group until I had entirely satisfied myself of the accuracy of the work.

In furtherance of the last object, I set all who had been employed in the service to work in plotting and calculating their surveys, while the features of the region were yet fresh in their memories. This duty occupied several days after my arrival at Mbua Bay, and was performed without any loss of time that could have been employed in actual surveying; for the weather was bad, in consequence of a gale from the southeast that lasted four days, and it would have been impossible to work in the open air.

In consequence of our protracted stay, it became necessary to reduce the allowance of the men's provisions one-third. Orders to this effect were, in consequence, given. The men, when informed of it, readily acquiesced, and I heard not a word of complaint.

On the 9th, Lieutenant Alden, in the tender, returned from the Annan Islands, without having completed all the duties he was