

charged with, and he had seen nothing of the shoal he had before reported to me. On the same day I despatched Lieutenant Case and Passed Midshipman Blunt, in the second cutter of the Peacock, around the north side of the island of Vanua-levu, for the purpose of falling in with the schooner Kai-viti, Passed Midshipman Harrison, and with directions to proceed with her to Somu-somu, and there purchase a cargo of yams. Lieutenant Case had also orders, on overtaking Lieutenant Walker, to relieve him, and to continue the survey with which that officer was charged, as far as Somu-somu, after which he was directed to return by the south side of the island of Vanua-levu, surveying and examining the harbours as he went along.

The Rev. Mr. Hunt took advantage of this opportunity to return to his home. Notwithstanding it was raining and blowing a gale, I could not delay this service any longer, particularly as I believed that the gale would moderate before the cutter would reach the other party, and that, as they would pass under the lee of the shore, they would not be very much exposed to it. Necessity alone, however, would have induced me to despatch a party in such weather.

For a few days, at this time, every one was employed, who could work, in repairing the boats, preparatory to the further examinations which I contemplated making on the hourly-expected arrival of the Porpoise.

On the afternoon of the 12th, Lieutenant Perry arrived in the launch, bringing with him Mr. Knox and the crew of the first cutter. That boat had been captured by the natives, at Sualib Bay, about twenty-five miles to windward, on the same island. In this bay the launch and first cutter had taken refuge during the bad weather, although it offers indifferent accommodation. After being there two or three days, they attempted to beat out, when the cutter, in trying to go about, near the reef, missed stays and was thrown on it. At the time this occurred, it was low water. The natives, who, it was supposed by the party, had anticipated the accident, had followed along the reef, and, as soon as it happened, crowded down, all well armed with clubs, spears, stones, &c. Mr. Knox, finding it impossible to get the boat off, thought of looking into his means of defence, and found himself completely in the power of the natives, for all his arms and ammunition were soaked with salt water. Lieutenant Perry, finding that the launch could not make headway against the wind and sea, had anchored at long gunshot from the spot where the cutter had gone on shore. As soon as he saw what was going forward, he opened a fire on the natives, but without effect; for they, notwithstanding, collected around Mr. Knox's party, and gave them to understand that they must abandon the boat