

quickly given, "That it would be the last of him and them; that there were some foolish people, who thought they would live in some other world; but they were very ignorant, and there were very few who thought in this way."

The next morning the boats were ordered to survey and sound out Ya-sau-y-lau Harbour, and thence to go on beyond the island of Naviti, passing those of Androna and Yangata. All these islands have passages between them, and are little incommoded with coral reefs. Some of them rise to a considerable height, that of Naviti being nine hundred and fifty-four feet high. They all have many small villages on them, which are generally built on a snug bay, and have near them a secure place of retreat, on the top of some inaccessible rock. I had expected to find anchorage and a good position for observing at Naviti, but none was accessible.

Just to the south of Naviti, is an island, the name of which I could not obtain, and which I subsequently called Eld Island, after Passed Midshipman Eld. To three others near it I gave the names of Fox, Agate, and Sinclair. Eld Island was found to be adapted to my purposes. We ascended its peak, and obtained the requisite observations. I then despatched the tender to bring up the boats.

During the absence of the tender, we discovered three or four canoes with a number of natives concealed just around the bluff of the next island. These natives were watching our motions very closely, and I deemed it necessary to put the men at the boat, which was some distance from us below, upon their guard, and sent extra boat-keepers to reinforce them. These natives learned that we were well-armed, by the occasional firing of our guns at birds, and did not trouble us. On the arrival of the tender, they went off, and we saw no more of them. It was by no means pleasant to be constantly feeling that if one of us should straggle, he might be kidnapped and taken off to furnish a cannibal feast. The boats again at night pitched their tents on the beach near the tender.

Naviti has several large villages, though there is little level ground for cultivation. From the top of Eld Island, that of Biva, in the west, extensive coral reefs trending north from the island of Vomo to the east, and the small islands in the southern part of this group, could be distinctly seen.

A few natives were seen on this island, who had swum across the narrow passage between it and Naviti. They were living in a miserable hut, and their principal food appeared to be the yaka, which an old woman was baking in the fire. From the natives digging in search