

the objects under view that we desired. The height of this peak was found to be about five hundred and fifty-five feet.

In the afternoon, I made for Vomo, and anchored under it. Here I found Lieutenant Emmons, on his return from his examinations of some detached reefs.

The southern half of Vomo has a high, narrow, and almost perpendicular bluff; the northern half is sand, covered with a thick growth of bushes, the resort of many pigeons: it is two miles in circumference. There is a detached rock, of a somewhat castellated appearance, at its northwest end, which I called Castle Rock. There is anchorage for a small vessel, but in any thing of a gale even she would be badly protected.

Messrs. Sinclair and Eld were sent at early daylight to the top of the rocky bluff, to get a round of angles, in which they succeeded. I passed the greatest part of the day on the beach, making the usual series of observations for latitude and meridian distances, and also taking a round of angles.

At about half-past three, just as we were about getting under way, a large fleet of canoes was seen approaching the island from Waia. Vomo is usually their place of stopping, being about half way to the Vitilevu shore from their island. They are always very cautious in their descent on the large island, although it is supposed that many of its towns hold communication with them, and the original inhabitants of the Naviti and Waia Islands are said to have been renegades from the larger islands.

Tom told me they must be after some mischief towards us, as they seldom left their island with so large a force. However true this might have been, we were soon under way, standing towards the Vitilevu shore, for the wind did not permit us to lay our course for Malolo. We passed through narrow passages in reefs, and over patches of rock, where there was little more water than the tender drew.

Our pilots had never been over this ground, and thought the natives, who are well acquainted with it, must have calculated upon our meeting with some accident, and intended to be near, to take advantage of it.

Vomo, the island just spoken of, is famous for its turtles, more being caught here than on any other island of the group; the time for taking them is from December to March. During this season every place to which the turtles are in the habit of resorting is occupied by the natives, who remain in these haunts of the animal for the whole of the