

cannot view it as unmerited, and the extent to which it was carried was neither dictated by cruelty nor revenge. I thought that they had been long enough allowed to kill and eat with impunity, every defenceless white that fell into their hands, either by accident or misfortune, and that it was quite time, as their intercourse with our countrymen on their adventurous voyages was becoming more frequent, to make the latter more secure. I desired to teach the savages that it was not weakness or fear that had thus far stayed our hands; and was aware, too, that they had ridiculed and misunderstood the lenity with which they had heretofore been treated both by the French and English men-of-war.

During the night I found it would be impossible for the boats to proceed, and I felt little inclined to run the risk of another accident through want of care and necessary precaution in dealing with the natives. I therefore determined on sending them back to the ship by as direct a route as possible, and ordered them to make the best of their way to Muthuata, proceeding first to the Annan Islands, thence across to Mbua Bay and along the north shore of Vanua-levu. They arrived at Muthuata on the 31st day of July, bearing the sad news of the events at Malolo.

Remaining myself in the tender, I proceeded, with the Porpoise in company, to the Vitilevu shore, intending to pass out of the Malolo Passage; but we found the flood setting so strong, that we were compelled to anchor under the Navula Reef, where we lay until the tide changed, employing ourselves looking over the extensive reef for shells, and observing to fix and prove the survey of the passage. The opening through the great reef here, which I have called the Navula Passage, is very remarkable; it has for portals two small islands of nearly the same size, which I have named Waldron and Spieden, after the pursers of the Expedition, between which the tide rushes with great strength. The great sea-reef appears to have been here broken asunder by some convulsion of nature, and the rushing tide has entirely swept the fragments away, leaving a fine open passage between the two islands of a mile in width. This may be termed the lee reef of these islands. Few things are more remarkable than the extent of these zoophytic formations; and the variety of their shapes, direction, and configuration, seem to put all speculation at defiance. Although I had often, in sailing over them in my boat, been impressed with the beautiful appearances they exhibited, I thought this day they excelled any I had before seen, and had a still closer resemblance to a rich parterre of flowers. I could scarcely realize the fact, that objects so essentially different could, by any means or in any way, be made to resemble