

each other. At times my gig's crew have called my attention to them on either hand, as we drifted slowly over these broad reefs, which are not only decked with the rocky habitation of these industrious lithophytes, but innumerable fancifully coloured fish of all shapes and sizes find shelter around and beneath them. The water is so limpid as to make the smallest marking and lightest shades, not only of the fish but of the corals themselves, perfectly distinct.

Towards sunset, the tide having ceased to flow, both vessels got under way and beat through the Navula Passage. This has nearly the shape of an elbow, and ought not to be attempted with a contrary wind, as there would not be room to beat through, except in a small vessel. We reached the open sea before it was quite dark, and began beating to the eastward along the Vitilevu shore.

Finding, during the morning of the 30th, that the brig detained me, I determined on parting company, and sent orders to her to repair to Ovolau, observe for chronometer sights at Observatory Point, procure a large quantity of yams, and thence proceed to Muthuata to join the rest of the squadron. By the Porpoise I sent orders to Captain Hudson to have every thing ready for sea by the 10th of August, as I believed that the remaining duties might be performed by that time, and informed him that I would join the squadron at Mali Island, intending to leave the group through the Mali Passage.

This southwest coast of Vitilevu had already been examined in the boats, under Lieutenant Emmons, as I have before mentioned. Nothing was left to be performed for the completion of this survey; I, therefore, when opposite the situation of Vatulele, put over the patent log and ran for it, by which method I found its distance from Vitilevu to be eighteen miles.

We remained all night under Vatulele, and in the morning began the survey of its east side, the Peacock having already completed its western shore.

Vatulele has the appearance of a raised coral island, although it is not so, but is of volcanic formation. The north part of this island is about seventy feet above the sea level, and is composed of strata of reddish clay and sandstone, lying nearly in horizontal layers, and closely resembling the red cliffs of Vitilevu opposite to it. It gradually descends to a low point at its southern end. There is no more than a narrow shore-reef on its western side, but on the eastern shore a reef extends off two or three miles, forming a kind of bow from the south to the north end of the island. There was no opening in the reef except for boats, and near its north end it enclosed several small islets.