

pine of New Zealand, and most of the large canoes used in the Feejee Islands are built here. The chief informed me that he would for three muskets get me, in three days, trees large enough to make masts for the tender. These were fourteen inches in diameter, and sixty feet in length, or large enough for topmasts of a ship of seven hundred tons. It takes them eight moons to build a canoe.

The people of Kantavu are industrious, and the chief said they had abundance of provisions, of which, if I would stay over the next day, he would bring me any quantity I desired. After making inquiry about Vendovi, he said that the people of Kantavu were glad he had been taken away, for he was continually making exactions on them for all kinds of articles, under his authority of vasu.

The chief said there were no harbours on the south side of the island, and that they sometimes transported their canoes over the narrow neck to visit that shore, but it was a very rough place, and too much exposed to the sea to be safe for canoes. This island, as it has been before mentioned, is tributary to Rewa. Most frequently the annual tribute is paid in canoes, except when the king of Rewa designates otherwise.

Many whale-ships stop here for supplies; these are principally English, belonging to Sydney, who seldom go to the north of these islands. The natives reported that they had seen eight within two moons. The bay they generally frequent is one to the westward of Malatta, called Tabuca. On this bay there is quite a large settlement of the same name, and it was reported by the chief as having ample supplies. Anchorage may be had off the town in fifteen fathoms water, with sandy bottom. It is a very picturesque spot.

According to the pilot's account of the Kantavu people, they are not to be trusted, being prone to acts of violence, which they can commit with impunity, as they have always a secure retreat from their enemies, in the mountain districts. Boats and crews, if not on their guard here, are frequently detained until they are ransomed; so that it behooves all who visit and wish to deal with these people, to be exceedingly cautious.

Early on the morning of the 3d of August, we got under way, and stood along the island of Kantavu, to its western end. The distance from Malatta Bay thither was found by patent log to be six miles. After reaching this point, we hove about under the Peak of Kantavu, which is a dome of large dimensions, and has the appearance of being an extinct crater, similar to those we have observed at the other groups. Having several remarkable peaks fixed, we were enabled to make a good running survey. The most northern coral shoal is off Malatta