

Bay, and it is the only place where there is any detached reef off the whole length of the northern shore of the island. We found the island to be twenty-five miles in length. At one o'clock we had reached its eastern end, off which lies Ono, a round island with two villages on it.

Ono is about eighty feet high, and between it and Kantavu there is a good and well-protected harbour. It was near Ono that the brig Charles Doggett was cut off by the chief Vendovi.

To the north is a cluster of rocky islets, which, finding without names, I have designated by those of the passed midshipmen belonging to the squadron. They are all situated in the great Astrolabe Reef, called after the name of that ship, in consequence of her remarkable escape from shipwreck on its eastern side. From Ono it trends nearly north. On its east side it is quite unbroken, and extends in a sweep round Ono, until it joins Kantavu; on the west side it is much broken, and has several safe passages through to the Passed Midshipmen Islands. These are eleven in number, and under some of them there is good anchorage. A few of these islands yield cocoa-nuts, but there are no inhabitants except on Ono. The length of the Astrolabe Reef, from Ono to its northern point, is ten miles; near the northern point is a remarkable rock, which is seen very distinctly from all directions. At the northern point of the reef is a clear passage through it. The water inside appears as blue as the ocean, and is doubtless very deep. Whales were seen sporting within the reef.

This reef is not only dangerous from its extent, but on account of the strong currents which prevail here, which for the most part set to the eastward.

From the point of the reef the high land of Vitilevu and Mbenga can be seen. It was just sunset when we left it, and stood on a north-by-east course, intending to make the reef off Nasilai Point. After running thirty-one miles, we came up with it, and found that we were obliged to make two short tacks to get far enough to the eastward to clear it, after doing which we arrived off Ovolau at 2 A. M. Notwithstanding the darkness, we passed in and anchored near the Porpoise.

On the 4th, I was engaged until late in the afternoon observing for time, in order to verify the meridian distances between Ovolau and those places at which I had again observed, and to ascertain if any change had taken place in the rates of my chronometers within the last five weeks. The proof of their correct performance was most satisfactory.

Levuka looked almost deserted, in comparison with what it had been during our stay there. Tui Levuka received me with much