

sionary cause, and determined to bring all the natives into acquiescence. The town of Bea being one of the strongest of those belonging to the principal chief of the devil's party, he undertook to capture it, but underrated the strength of its fortification and its means of defence. For this purpose he landed a large party from his ship (the Favourite sloop-of-war), and proceeded to the town of Bea, on reaching which he sent a message to the purport that its inhabitants must come to terms within an hour, and gave them no time to consult or arrange matters, after their own fashion. As soon as the hour was up, he called upon them to surrender, which they refused to do, upon which he at once proceeded to attack the gate. The native warriors resisted and fired upon him. The affair resulted in the loss of his own life, with those of several of his officers and men, and a consequent abandonment of the object. The retreat was succeeded by the expulsion from the island of the missionaries and Christian party. It is supposed that if a longer time had been allowed the chief of Bea, all its inhabitants would have come over quietly to the Christian party, under the fear of the storming and taking of the place, for they had but little idea that they could withstand the attack of a white, or Papalangi force.

On the morning of the 8th, we left Somu-somu and stood to the northward for the Ringgold Isles. These are seven in number, and are surrounded by extensive reefs. The highest of the group, called Budd Island was ascended: it is composed of volcanic scoria and large blocks of lava, rising to the height of eight hundred feet, and has an almost perfect crater in its centre. The outside, or rim, of this crater forms the island, and is very narrow at the top; its inner side is quite perpendicular, while its outside is generally inclined at an angle of fifty or sixty degrees, although in places it is almost perpendicular; the climbing is, however, made comparatively easy by the assistance of the roots of the trees that grow upon it, of which some of large size are near its base. The other islands in its neighbourhood we did not land on: they are uninhabited, except at the turtle season; they are barren rocks, and too dangerous to be approached by a vessel, the reefs extending as far as the eye can reach.

Having succeeded in making all the requisite observations, we returned to the tender, and left Ringgold Isles, with the intention of anchoring under Rambe; but we were benighted before we reached the reef; and as our pilots did not know where the entrance was, I determined to proceed to Unda Point, off which we arrived near midnight, and lay-to until daylight.

On the morning of the 9th of August, at daylight, we found ourselves