

ship by the boat. As this party had not succeeded in obtaining the specimens of sandalwood they desired, an opportunity offering, through the invitation of old Tui Mbua, who was on board the Vincennes, was taken advantage of, and several officers embarked with him, to spend the night at his village, called Fakosega. They were accompanied by David Whippy, as interpreter. Their principal object was to obtain specimens of sandalwood, which has now become so rare on these islands, and which the old chief promised to find for them.

This district of Tui Mbua is that whence the sandalwood was formerly obtained. Tui Mbua furnished our gentlemen with guides, and they set out. The country was the same as before described on the other route, consisting of barren hills, trees being only found in the valleys, which are of small extent. They were soon shown several specimens of sandalwood, very small, and hardly to be distinguished from the surrounding shrubs. The natives call it *assi*. Proceeding on to the top of the hill, several solitary trees of sandalwood were met with, the largest of which were no more than twenty feet high, and had a stem only six inches in diameter at the height of eighteen inches from the base. The general habit of the tree is represented as of slender form, and a growth very much resembling that of a peach-tree. It is found to be affected by a kind of dry-rot, which, however, does not lessen the fragrance of the wood. They procured specimens both in fruit and flower; the latter is not conspicuous. The fresh wood is destitute of odour, and therefore cannot be recognised by this property. The district where this wood is found is exceedingly small, being no more than fifteen miles square. A line running north from Lecumba Point, and including Anganga Island, will comprise the whole of it. This district forms the most western point of the island of Vanua-levu. Its soil is rocky and barren, but not more so than that of several other districts that have been visited.

Mr. Brackenridge remarks, that they met with a species of *Rhus*, which grows in the form of an upright tree. Nothing could induce the natives to ascend to obtain specimens of it, for it is considered by them as poisonous; and they made signs that it would injure their hands and feet, or any part of the body that came in contact with it. Our naturalists, however, obtained specimens of the tree by breaking down a branch with a hooked stick.

Tui Mbua's town is situated on an almost inaccessible peak, six hundred feet above the level of the sea. It contains about four hundred inhabitants including men, women, and children. They are all now miserably poor, and have little to eat, having recourse to the