

Captain Hudson having furnished his first lieutenant with written instructions, returned to bring the Vincennes round from Mbua Bay.

Hugh M'Bride was afterwards found at Muthuata, secreted by natives, and strong suspicion existed that it was with the full knowledge and concurrence of the king. Many surveying signals were also stolen, even in sight of the ship, and in broad daylight. It therefore became necessary to put a stop to these thefts, which not only impeded the operations, but could not be overlooked without the risk of further depredations. Captain Hudson visited the king, and told him distinctly that the articles must be returned in a day, or he must take the consequences. The king made many promises, and kept them better than those he had before given, for he set about effecting the recovery of the signals in earnest.

On the 26th July, the king's son Ko-Mbiti, returned from Somu-somu in state, without bringing any guests to the famous fête they were preparing. Instead of them he presented his father with a large whale's tooth, and a request that he would take part in the war about to take place against Seru, who headed the Ambau warriors. The son, it was understood, favoured the Somu-somuans, but the old king more prudently desired to observe a strict neutrality.

The observations at Lecumba Point having been finished, and Captain Hudson having returned from Muthuata to take the Vincennes, every thing was embarked in her, and on the 29th they got under way for Muthuata. In the evening they anchored in Nalua Bay, where the next morning they took in a quantity of wood, and visited the town of Tavea on the island of that name. Here Mr. Drayton witnessed the making of pottery by women. The clay used is of a red colour, and is obtained in quantities on the island, and the vessels are formed by the women with the same instruments that are described in another place. Some of their work appeared as round as though it had been turned in a lathe. The pots are dried in the open air, and for baking or burning them, they use a common wood fire, without any oven. The vessels are of various shapes, some of which are quite pretty. The tenacity of the clay is such, that even without baking the pottery is quite strong.

The islands from Nalua Bay to Muthuata, are for the most part low, and covered with tiri (mangrove) bushes. There is one within a few miles of Muthuata, called Nucumbati, which is remarkable in shape, as well as picturesque in appearance. On this is a deserted town of about sixty houses, situated in a beautiful grove of cocoa-nut trees. The account obtained of it from our interpreter was, that its chief and