

## CHAPTER X.

### FEEJEE GROUP.

1840.

THE Feejee Group is situated between the latitudes of  $15^{\circ} 30'$  and  $19^{\circ} 30'$  S., and the longitudes of  $177^{\circ}$  E., and  $178^{\circ}$  W. It comprises one hundred and fifty-four islands, sixty-five of which are inhabited. The remaining eighty-nine are occasionally resorted to by the natives for the purpose of fishing, and taking biche de mar. There are also numerous reefs and shoals. The latter occupied much of our time and attention, and, with the numerous harbours, have been fully surveyed.

The shortness of the time we spent in the group may perhaps incline some to doubt the accuracy of our surveys. I am however well satisfied myself, that with the exception of the south side of Kantavu, every portion of the group has been as thoroughly examined as is necessary for any nautical purpose, or for those of general geography. The south side of Kantavu, according to the reports of the natives and white pilots, contains no harbours, affords no shelter for vessels, and moreover had been already examined by the French Expedition.

During our stay at Levuka, we obtained full sets of moon culminating stars for the longitude, placing it in  $178^{\circ} 52' 40.78''$  E.; and circummeridian observations of sun and stars, making its latitude  $17^{\circ} 40' 46.79''$  S. For the other points whose positions were determined, I must refer to our tables. These were all carefully fixed by meridian distances from Levuka, in the island of Ovolau, which occupies nearly a central position in the group. Its position will be more clearly perceived and understood by reference to the map of these islands, which will be found in the atlas. At Ovolau, a regular series of observations for magnetic results were gone through. Some interesting magnetic