

disturbances took place, which were observed with Gauss's needle, and will be found in the chapter on magnetism, where also are recorded the dip and variation at the different points.

For the manner in which the detail of the survey of this group was accomplished, I have to refer to the Hydrographical Memoir, where it will be fully explained and illustrated. Taking into account the methods employed, and the means placed at my disposal, it will, I trust, be apparent that the comparatively short time in which so great a quantity of work was performed, can be no reason why its results should not be relied upon.

Besides the four vessels of the squadron, which were for a considerable part of the time under way, seventeen boats were actively engaged in the surveys. Even the amount of work performed will give but little idea how arduous the duties were. The boats were absent from the vessels from fifteen to twenty days at a time, during which the officers and men rarely landed, and were continually in danger from the treachery of the natives, who were ever upon the watch for an opportunity to cut them off. It gives me great pleasure to be able, with but few exceptions, to bear witness to the untiring zeal of those who were attached to the Expedition, and to the accuracy with which the work was performed; and in the cases where error or careless work was suspected, the doubtful parts were resurveyed, correcting any mistake which might have been committed in the first instance, and verifying the survey where it was accurate.

The opportunities of the naturalists were as great as could be afforded them consistently with their safety. It was considered desirable that the interior of the large islands should be reached; this was partly effected up the river Wai-levu, by Lieutenant Budd. But journeys on foot into the interior were out of the question, and only those parts of the islands in the immediate proximity of the seashore could consequently be visited with safety. Many novelties have been obtained. For a more full description of the several branches of natural history and botany, I would refer the reader to the reports of the different naturalists.

The climate of the different sides of the islands may, as in all the large Polynesian islands, be distinguished as wet or dry, the weather side being subject to showers, while to leeward it is remarkably dry, and droughts are of long continuance. The difference in temperature is however small, and on comparing the meteorological journal kept on board the Peacock, on the west side of Vitilevu, with that kept at Levuka, I find that at the same hours they stand within two degrees of each other.