

Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold says that it is without any harbour or protection for vessels. There are several small villages around it, but no town on the east side, with the exception of a village under Natava Peak, where there is the appearance of a stream of water from the mountains. The land is much broken into volcanic peaks. The bay extends to the southwest twenty miles, and is seven miles wide.

The bay, which should be more properly called a gulf, affords no inducements for commerce, or for vessels to venture in; there is no bottom except with great length of line, and where anchorage exists it is very near the shore. On the west side of the bay are many projecting reefs.

From this bay they passed round the north end of Rambe, examined its reefs, and then stood for Somu-somu, where they found the people preparing for a grand feast, in consequence of the breaking out of the war with Vuna. The old king was found, as I had frequently seen him, braiding his sennit, and surrounded by his wives.

Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold had communication with the king and chiefs respecting the missionaries, and urged upon them the necessity of providing a suitable place for them. Tui Illa-illa was for a long time unwilling to make any promises, and wished to procrastinate. He professed great love for the missionaries; but his character being well understood, little reliance was placed in his promises. Finding, however, that Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold was not to be deceived, he at last consented to assign to the missionaries a piece of land in the suburbs of the town, where they might build a dwelling.

Tui Illa-illa was very desirous of obtaining one of our "fiery spirits" (rockets), with which he believed he could put an end at once to the Vuna war; and the hope of obtaining one was no doubt a great inducement to his yielding his consent to giving the land so freely to the missionaries, for it is well-known he bears them no good will. He offered one hundred pigs for a single rocket, and enforced his request by kissing the hands of Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold with great eagerness. He did not, however, succeed in procuring the object of his wishes.

During the stay of the Porpoise at Somu-somu, the boats, under Lieutenant Maury and Mr. Knox, were despatched to survey the bay of Matapuen, on the opposite side of the straits, which service they completed, and reported its having a good and safe anchorage. After their return, preparations were made for departure.

At Somu-somu they found the celebrated Ambau chief, Wainue, cousin to Seru, with whom he had quarrelled, and had fled to Somu-