

You will endeavour to obtain the native names of all the islands you survey.

You will continue in company until signal is made to you to execute the above orders.

I am, &c.,

CHARLES WILKES,  
Commanding Exploring Expedition.

LIEUT. COM. C. RINGGOLD,  
U. S. Brig Porpoise.

### III.

U. S. Ship Vincennes,  
Ovolau, May 10th, 1840.

SIR,—

The launch and first cutter, with Mr. Knox, Mr. Henry, and Dr. Whittle, twelve men, and a pilot, are placed under your orders for a surveying excursion along the north side of the island of Vitilevu. You will observe the following instructions very particularly, and in no case depart from them, unless it is for the preservation of your party.

1st. You will avoid landing any where on the main land or islands, unless the latter should be uninhabited.

2d. Every precaution must be observed in treating with natives, and no natives must be suffered to come alongside or near your boats without your boarding-nettings being up. All trade must be carried on over the stern of your boat, and your arms and howitzers ready to repel any attack.

3d. You will avoid any disputes with them, and never be off your guard or free from suspicion: they are in no case to be trusted.

4th. Your two boats must never be separated at night, but anchored as near together as possible. You will adhere to the following route of proceeding, viz.:

Leaving the ship, you will proceed round the north end of Ovolau and steer for the main island of Vitilevu, to a point off which there is a small island; observing, running down, and fixing the reefs that may lay in your way there, dividing your boats so as to obtain their outlines as accurately as possible, particularly the northern reef that leads to the inshore channel of that island, and along its north shore. From the above-mentioned point you will proceed to the westward, tracing the shore and line of reefs outside of you. The passage is supposed to be from two to five miles wide, and is said to be a good one for a ship. All coral patches and broken ground that may be fallen in with will be particularly observed, and their positions