

ascertained with regard to the main points in sight; and all entrances or passages through the great reef to the northward, must not escape your attention: none it is believed occur, until you reach Ragi-ragi, on the east side of the Malaki Islands. At these islands, the ship-channel is supposed to go between them and the main island. You will observe particularly if the main northern reef joins these islands. Ascertain their size, and get an azimuth on the high hill of Ovolau if possible; here it is extremely desirable to obtain accurately the latitude and longitude. Chronometers are furnished both boats, whose rates and errors are given. After passing these, you will continue on to Taboa, when you will find another passage through the reef to the northward; this will be examined, as that off Ragi-ragi, getting the trending of the outside reef both east and west by careful bearings at both places. Thence you will proceed through the aforesaid ship-channel, along the island of Vitilevu, down as far as Ba, where you will find the ship *Leonidas*, Captain Eagleston, who no doubt will be happy to supply any thing you may be in want of, for which he will receive remuneration. You will make no unnecessary delay here, but continue on your survey as far as the island of Malolo, off the western end of Vitilevu, where you will meet further orders from me in ten days; if, however, this should not occur, you will return. On your way back, following the outside reef on its inner edge (which I believe does not exist beyond fifteen miles from the land), and taking observations so as to establish its various points by bearings and latitude and longitude, and regain this anchorage as soon as possible. A patent log is furnished you for measuring your distances run, and an azimuth compass.

You will observe the variation, and not omit your latitude daily by meridian observation or double altitudes, and also sights for your chronometers, morning and evening; taking comparisons daily between them, which will be inserted in your note-books.

You will make a rough diagram as you proceed, on a large scale, which you will have in readiness to send me by any opportunity that may occur.

Each boat will keep a log of her proceedings.

You will always keep the boats within signal distance of each other, separating them in cases of extreme necessity only, for a short time.

You will communicate these instructions to Mr. Knox.

I am, &c.,

CHARLES WILKES,
Commanding Exploring Expedition.

LIEUTENANT JAMES ALDEN,
U. S. Ship *Vincennes*.