

U. S. Ship Vincennes,
Ovolau, May 12th, 1840.

SIR,—

The launch and first cutter of the Peacock, with Chaplain Elliott, Mr. Blunt, and Mr. Dyes, twelve men, and a pilot, are placed under your orders, for a surveying excursion along the south 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.

You will avoid landing on the main land or on an island, unless the latter should be uninhabited.

Every precaution must be observed in treating with the natives: none of them 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 ready to repel any attack. You will avoid all disputes with them, and never be off your guard or free from suspicion: they are in no case to be trusted. 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, running down the reef of the west side of it, until you make and get observations on the insulated rock between it and the island on the south side of Ovolau (Moturiki), thence to the main land of Vitilevu, off a point nearly opposite, near which you will find a small island. In running down, you will fix the reef on the east side of the passage. At this island you will ascertain your latitude and longitude, and observe azimuths on the trending of the coast, east and west. From thence you will proceed to the southward, tracing the coast, reefs, and channels that may be practicable for vessels towards Ambau and Viwa, and getting a knowledge of the route for vessels navigating towards these places, in order that sailing directions may be obtained from your chart. From thence you will proceed round Kamba Point inside the reefs, laying down their positions, trending, and passages through them, if any occur. One is supposed to exist near the two small islands off Kamba Point. Thence you will follow the reefs inside of those towards Rewa, in like manner tracing the land, &c. Rewa Harbour you will make a survey of, and the passages leading into it, and as far up as the town, noting the best anchorages, &c., and ascertain its latitude and longitude.

After completing this duty, you will proceed along the reefs to the island of Mbenga, and if safe for your boats, as far as Vatulele; but