

you will be cautious not to run the risk of passing the night without the reefs, but seek always an early and safe anchorage. From thence you will run the land down to the western end of the island of Vitilevu, anchoring lastly in the harbour of Ba.

It is believed that twelve days will be amply sufficient for you to finish the work designated for you to perform; should you reach the west end before this time, the island of Malolo and the reefs adjacent will claim your attention.

You will examine as much of this locality, and the reefs and island to the westward, as will enable you to reach Amboa in time to meet the Peacock on the 25th instant, when you will report to Captain Hudson.

You will examine all coral patches and detached reefs, locating them accurately with the main land and adjacent reef. Chronometers are furnished both boats. You will, when practicable, get morning and evening observations for the longitude and also latitude, by meridian observations and double altitudes: keeping a diagram and chart on a large scale (one quarter of an inch to a mile), which will be brought up at the end of each day's work. Let your observations be taken, when possible, with the artificial horizon, and your courses and distances carefully ascertained with azimuth bearings on all points, both before you reach them and after you have passed them.

Each boat will keep a careful and particular log of her proceedings, which will be transmitted to me, together with your report and the chart made during your passage. You will make no unnecessary delay on your route, and care must be taken that your men be not suffered to remain in wet clothes at night.

Comparisons will be made with your chronometers daily, carefully noting them in your log-book.

You will always keep your boats in signal distance, separating them only in cases of necessity, for a short time.

When practicable, Mr. Dyes will be employed in collecting shells, &c.

You will communicate these instructions to Mr. Blunt.

I am, &c.,

CHARLES WILKES,
Commanding Exploring Expedition.

LIEUTENANT GEO. F. EMMONS,
U. S. Ship Peacock.