

I V.

U. S. Ship Vincennes,
Ovolau, May 13th, 1840.

SIR,—

You will proceed with the Flying-Fish to survey the following islands of the Feejee Group. For this purpose Lieutenant Underwood is ordered to accompany you, with a boat and crew, and Tom the pilot.

1. Ambatiki, and its distance from Ovolau by patent log, examining its reefs on both sides.
2. Nairai, with its reefs to the south.
3. Angau.
4. Matuku, Moalo, and Totoia.
5. Reef called Tova.
6. Vanua-vatu.
7. An island upon the charts to the southward of Vanua-vatu, that I do not believe exists.
8. Goro, Direction Island, and the Horseshoe Reef.

Ten days are allowed you to complete this work. You will ascertain their bearings and distances asunder, latitude and longitude, and examine them for harbours; none is supposed to exist but at Moalo.

You will not suffer any of your boats to be taken by surprise, or to land, unless you deem it necessary for the purpose of carrying on your surveying operations more effectually. I need not point out to you the observations required to be made. You will bring up your work every evening, and construct a chart as you proceed, on a large scale, a quarter of an inch to a mile.

I enclose a chart herewith, on which the islands to be surveyed are marked.

Should you not be able to finish all the surveys in the given time, you will omit Goro, Direction Island, and the Horseshoe Reef.

Sketches of the islands are required, particularly those as they appear on approaching them from the sea; and as much of their topography as can be obtained in surveying them.

Two more chronometers are furnished you, with their rate and errors. Do not omit daily comparisons as usual.

Try your patent log well before using it: a strong line of twenty-five or thirty fathoms will be enough.

Wishing you a successful cruise, I am, &c.,

CHARLES WILKES,
Commanding Exploring Expedition.

LIEUTENANT OVERTON CARR,
U. S. Ship Vincennes.