

## VI.

U. S. Ship Vincennes,  
Ovolau, May 14th, 1840.

SIR,—

You will proceed with the Peacock to the harbour of Rewa, where you will anchor, and endeavour to effect the signing of rules and regulations similar to those recently made by Tanoa, King of Ambau, making friends with the chiefs and favourably impressing them with our intentions towards them. You will, in all probability, overtake Lieutenant Emmons, at Rewa, whom you will furnish with all the aid in your power for the accomplishment of his work. You will explore with your boats a river in the vicinity of Rewa, coming from the centre of the island of Vitilevu; affording the scientific gentlemen an opportunity of making collections.

In order to secure the safety of your boats, it will be necessary to engage the services of a chief. There is a man, named Phillips, residing there, who is well disposed and speaks English. A gun will be fired morning and evening during your stay. After having satisfied yourself that nothing more can be procured at Rewa, you will proceed with the Peacock to the island of Kantavu, where you will anchor, if possible, and explore as much of the coast and interior as your time will permit. From thence you will proceed to examine Vatulele, fixing its latitude and longitude. Thence you will run down the coast to the west end of the island of Vitilevu, entering within the reefs at Malolo, and anchoring in the harbour of Amboa; which you will reach by the 25th instant, and there be rejoined by the boats of your ship.

At Amboa you will, in all probability, meet the ship Leonidas, Captain Eagleston, and on board that ship there is a Mr. London, who is considered a good pilot for the Asaua Islands. You will, therefore, endeavour to engage his services as soon after your arrival as possible. If his services can be engaged immediately, and he deems it safe for the Peacock to anchor at those islands, you will proceed with your ship, launch, and first cutter to such place as he may recommend, where you will commence an examination of them.

Nine days are supposed to be amply sufficient for this purpose, if the weather should be fine; after which time you will proceed to Sandalwood Bay, where you will again anchor. On your arrival there, you will despatch your two boats to survey the south side of the island of Vanua-levu, to continue the examination until they receive further orders.