

IX.

U. S. Schooner Flying-Fish,
Somu-somu, June 10th, 1840.

SIR,—

You will examine and survey the island of Somu-somu, by the south around to the northeast point; thence by the island off Hat and Cap Islands, and thence to the islands and reefs to the northward, as far as the island or reef called Farewell Island. You will return toward the north end of Somu-somu, surveying the islands and reefs in your way to the harbour of Tubou, to the north of this anchorage. From thence to the opposite shore of Vanua-levu, taking up Mount Cocoa-nut and its points, and, proceeding to the northward and westward, the boats carefully examining the reefs and bays for harbours, as far as the bay of Mali, when you will enter the reef, and proceed to the anchorage near Kie, or Muthuata, on the chart, where you will meet me or orders.

On your arrival at Muthuata, your work will be brought up, and the notes or deck-board agreeably to formula, and a rough chart of your surveys furnished me, together with your report up to that time.

If you should, on your way to Muthuata, meet any of the boats of the squadron surveying, you will despatch them back, provided you have completed the work as far as you have gone. You will take up their points, and carefully examine their operations, making and continuing your charts up to Muthuata. It is impossible for me to point out the length of time this will occupy you; but it is hoped you will do the work as quickly as possible, and at the same time effectually.

In the event of accident, you will inform me at Muthuata, by the earliest opportunity.

Before leaving Somu-somu, you will ascertain whether any of the boats of the squadron have been seen to pass around the island of Vanua-levu.

The Porpoise will be kept supplied with three months' wood and water, filled at those places where it may be had without impeding your operations.

I am, &c.,

CHARLES WILKES,
Commanding Exploring Expedition.

LIEUT. COM. C. RINGGOLD,
U. S. Brig Porpoise.