

The theodolite Mr. Perry has, will be delivered to you. You will land, if possible, on the above reefs, and observe a full round of angles, together with the latitude and longitude, by equal altitudes.

Any reefs you may meet with on your way, you will take sufficient angles to establish their positions. The direction of the current will also claim your attention, and the time of high and low water.

Should you require the services of another officer, you will take one from the launch or cutter.

You will be expected to join me at Sandalwood Bay, on or before the 10th instant.

I am, &c.,

CHARLES WILKES,  
Commanding Exploring Expedition

LIEUTENANT JAMES ALDEN,  
U. S. Ship Vincennes.

## XI.

U. S. Ship Vincennes,  
Savu-savu, July 3d, 1840.

SIR,—

You will, with the launch and first cutter, Mr. Knox, proceed this night to the harbour of Kombelau, which you will finish your survey of, by taking careful soundings, &c. This, it is presumed you will finish to-morrow. You will proceed the next day to survey the bay of Nandi, if you should hear nothing from me in the mean time; and after completing that work, you will proceed to Passage Island, where you will remain a day, for the purpose of proving the observations heretofore made there; thence to Sandalwood Bay, by the way of the sunken patches of coral leading from the main reef, which you will carefully explore, where you will find me or orders.

The former orders relative to your intercourse with the natives, must be observed strictly: they are only revoked so far as respects landing for the necessary observations; and you must on no account omit the necessary precautions, as if you were apprehensive of an attack from them, viz.: that of arming yourselves well.

The tides must be carefully observed, to ascertain the times of high and low water, in the way I have indicated to you, and their direction in ebb and flood, together with their strength by the current log. You will note, at the time, particularly the trending of reefs and land in places.

If the ship should be seen by you to-morrow evening off Kombelau, you will hoist two lights at the cutter's masthead, anchored off the