

You will, therefore, see the necessity of pushing beyond that place as quickly as possible.

The letter to Captain Eagleston you will deliver on board the *Leonidas* as you pass her.

On your meeting the boats of Lieutenant Walker, you will take under your command his best boat and crew, and put Mr. Blunt in charge of her, and proceed as rapidly as possible.

After the *Kai-viti* is loaded with yams, &c., at Somu-somu, you will give her orders to proceed at once to this place to join the ships here. I need say nothing to you about Mr. Hunt, for I am sure you will take good care of him, and see him safely landed at his home.

I am, &c.,

CHARLES WILKES,
Commanding Exploring Expedition.

LIEUTENANT A. L. CASE,
U. S. Ship *Vincennes*.

P. S. If you should meet with the *Porpoise*, you will show these orders to Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold.

Respectfully,
C. W.

COPY OF STATEMENT RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF JAMES CUNNINGHAM.

I SAILED from the ship, then at Ragi-ragi, to cruise to Muthuata, in the cutter *Young Philips*. We arrived at Muthuata on the 14th of March. On the same day, and at a place called "Navendarra," the natives made signal for us by smokes. It being inconvenient for us to stop, I proceeded to Muthuata, and concluded to call there on my return, which I accordingly did on the afternoon of the 15th of March. Soon after we had anchored, I sent James Cunningham on shore in the boat, to ascertain if there was any shell on shore. He soon returned, and reported that there were three heads of shell, and that if he would come on shore in the morning they would bring it off to sell. I accordingly despatched him early the next morning, with orders not to remain any length of time, as I was anxious to get back to the ship as soon as possible. After waiting two hours, I fired a gun as a signal for him to return; immediately after which, the natives gave the war-shout and fired their muskets at us, the balls all falling short of us. I then got under way and stood across the bay several times, but neither saw nor heard any thing of the man until I arrived at Tavea, when I was informed that he had been killed and eaten; and I have no doubt