

patent log, and run a base, and get what results you can in passing it, particularly the latitude and longitude of its points and peaks.

On your way to the northward, I have concluded you will be enabled to reach Vavao without difficulty. You will therefore have communication with it so far as to ascertain the dispositions of the Shylock's men, without delay.

I am, &c.,

CHARLES WILKES,
Commanding Exploring Expedition.

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

U. S. Ship Vincennes,
August 12th, 1840.

SIR,—

You will proceed and make the reef off Kie, and sail it close aboard, as far only as Round Island. You will not look for it to the westward of Round Island, from whence you will proceed to carry out my order of the 11th inst., with all despatch.

You will use the patent log, and report the result of all your transactions to me.

I am, &c.,

CHARLES WILKES,
Commanding Exploring Expedition.

ACTING-MASTER SINCLAIR,
Tender Flying-Fish.

XVI.

U. S. Ship Peacock,
August 1st, 1840.

SIR,—

I address you this letter, for the purpose of stating the circumstances attendant upon the death of Smith, a man attached to the Kai-viti, under my command. I was at anchor on the night of the 14th of July, pretty near the land. Happening to be awake at eleven o'clock, I thought I would ascertain if the look-out was awake. I got up in the companion-way, and called him by name two or three times. Receiving no answer, I went forward and found him asleep. Taking up a small piece of sennit stuff, I struck him with it smartly on the hand. He awoke, and I reproached him for having neglected his duty. He denied having been asleep, and became insolent. I began