

the islands are built here. The harbour is well protected by a reef, through which are several passages. Very little appears to be known of the coast, so an accurate survey is much needed, and on this we were partially engaged during our stay.

A walk in the interior was very enjoyable, although requiring great exertion from the rough roads: the pedestrian having here, perhaps, to toil up an almost perpendicular rise of 15 or 20 feet, then to cross a narrow ridge, followed by a descent into a deep valley, all clothed with tangled vines and shrubs. Walking was occasionally all the more awkward from the number of roots and the slippery mud; again, rivulets were met with, from which water continually bubbled across our path, and hurried headlong down the ravine. The scene that presented itself was truly beautiful; the picturesque valleys of the adjacent islands lay in full view beneath, exhibiting here and there spots of cultivated ground, with groves of cocoa-nut and bread-fruit trees; while in all directions were native houses, perched on apparently inaccessible cliffs overlooking small domains, and the several peaks rising in sight all cut and broken in the most grotesque manner: in the distance the various islands in the group, and the fantastic needle-shaped peak of Vanua Levu were distinctly to be seen. The detached reefs could be traced for miles by the water breaking over them, until they were lost