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On the 22nd July we got under weigh, and, passing without the reefs, stood away to the westward. It was blowing somewhat squally, and in the darkness of the night it was by no means pleasant running over unknown and uncertain ground.

At daylight on the 24th we found ourselves in the midst of a number of beautiful islands all girt with white circling reefs. Each island had its own peculiar beauty, covered as it was with luxuriant vegetation. About mid-day we stopped off Matuki, which is one of the southernmost of the Fiji group. A large party landed with rifles, and got excellent sport in the forests, while the vessel cruised backwards and forwards dredging, and some excellent hauls were made. Among other things a fine nautilus was brought to the surface, and the opportunity was thus given of seeing this beautiful creature alive in its native element. The old popular idea that this animal lived on the surface, and floated along, using its shell as a boat while it was being propelled by its own sails and oars, is altogether fabulous, for it is now proved that the creature lives at or near the bottom, using its shell, with the curved side uppermost, as a protection, and that it never comes to the surface except after death. When the exploring party returned, we again proceeded on our way, and on the following day arrived (July 25th) at Kandavu. After a couple of days here, we left for Levuka, a run of 120 miles, amongst most