

and doubted its existence. Steering for Levuka Harbour, with the islands of Angau, Nairai, Mbatiki, Wakaya, Makogai, and Ovalau in sight, no difficulty was experienced in ascertaining the position of the ship. At 1.30 P.M. the leading marks through the reefs into Levuka were seen, and the vessel sailed into the harbour, anchoring at 2 P.M. off the town.

The two beacon-houses, or light-boxes, were very indistinctly seen from seaward, and the old mission house, used for Government purposes, could not be distinguished from the surrounding buildings until close to the shore.

Levuka.—The Expedition remained at Levuka until the evening of August 1st, obtaining sights at the old observing position of Captain Denham, at the mission house, and completing the store of coals from a vessel which had been freighted from Sydney for the purpose.

On the 31st July, a party of officers and naturalists left Levuka in the barge for a trip to Mbau and Rewa, thence to sail across to Kandavu Island. The following is an account of this excursion from Mr. Moseley's Journal:—

“At 6 A.M. on July 31st, I started on a cruise in one of the ship's boats, called the barge, to the island of Mbau, and the Wai Levu, with a party which was to join the ship again at Kandavu. There being little wind all day, we failed in reaching Mbau on the first day, but arriving in its neighbourhood about dusk, we mistook a projecting headland of Viti Levu,¹ some miles north of Mbau, for the island of Viwa, and a small island lying off this headland for Mbau. It was impossible to distinguish in the gloom what were islands and what promontories, against the dark background of the Viti Levu coast. All around Mbau, Viwa, and the neighbouring coast are extensive shallow coral and mud flats, the mud being brought down by one of the mouths of the river Wai Levu, which opens in the direction of Mbau. After making several attempts to reach the island which we supposed to be Mbau, and constantly grounding on the coral, we anchored in a deep channel between the coral flats for the night. In the early morning we made out Mbau, conspicuous from the white house of the missionary upon its summit, and soon reached it.

“Mbau is a very small island, not more than half a mile in circumference, and consists of a central hill, of about 50 feet elevation, with a flat area at its top, and bounded by steep grass-covered slopes, surrounded by a tract of flat ground. The central mass is composed of a friable stratified rock, of a greyish or reddish colour. An exactly similar rock composes the mainland immediately opposite the island, and the strata there correspond in inclination with those of Mbau. The central mass of the island is thus a small detached fragment left standing by the denuding waves. The passage between the mainland and Mbau is so shallow as to be fordable at high water, and is nearly dry at low water. The flat lower part of Mbau, which is raised only a few feet above the sea, con-

¹ Viti Levu (pronounced Veetee läy'voo). Levu means “great.” Settlers often clip the u, and talk of “Viti lib.”