

The town or village at Ngaloa Bay, in Kandavu Island, was, at the time of our visit, miserably small, consisting of a few native huts, with three or four small stores kept by Europeans, and a whisky shop.

The main bulk of the island of Kandavu, as of that of Ovalau, is made up of a coarse conglomerate, composed of rounded fragments of volcanic rock. The surface of the islands is worn by denudation in such a manner as to present, when viewed from a distance, the appearance of a series of obtuse-angled triangles, rising one above the other. These are more numerous and less distinctly defined towards the sea-level, whilst above, their apices form a line of peaked mountain-summits. The lower triangles are the foreshortened secondary ridges, formed on the mountain slopes by denudation. They struck me as having a more than ordinary uniformity of slope and general features in the Fiji Islands.

The whole of these slopes and ridges in Kandavu and Ovalau are covered with a dense dark green forest growth, except where, in some places, patches of land, often of large extent, and always very conspicuous, have been cleared for cultivation. The village at Ngaloa Bay is built at the mouth of a small rocky mountain stream which affords a pleasant bath. The Fijians still make use of a bow and arrow to shoot small fish in the stream, using arrows with several jagged prongs. On the banks of the stream, the surface of the rock is in several places covered with deeply scored grooves, having been used formerly by the natives for grinding and shaping their stone adzes. I fancy most of the grinding work was done by the women, and when I see a finely polished Celt, I always picture to myself the male savage getting a stick and hammering his wife occasionally until the stone assumed the desired form. Thus the man procured it with the least possible expenditure of labour on his part. Similar grinding places, with grooves cut in the rock, whither natives used to come to grind their stone axes, are known in Australia.

There are no roads in the island of Kandavu, merely narrow tracks through the woods and along the shores, which are excessively tiring to traverse. I made one shooting excursion at Kandavu. The route lay first amongst beds of reeds on a small expanse of flat land at the mouth of the valley in which the stream runs; then skirting a mangrove swamp bordering the shallow interior lagoon part of the bay, led amongst "taro" beds, and up a steep slope into the densely tangled woods.

commenced to grow there were at least, as the facts show, 15,000 square miles of land, or nearly three times the present surface. J. D. Dana, "Coral Reefs and Islands," p. 94. N. York, Putman, 1853.