

were in countless numbers, and some splendid Sea-urchins, with huge thick spines (*Acrocladia mamillata*), were found. A Shark appeared showing its back fin high out of the shallow water; it was chased with boarding pikes by the Blue-jackets, but was too wary to allow its pursuers to come within reach. Captain Nares set up his theodolite on the reef and took angles whilst we collected specimens.

Whilst at Levuka (in Ovalau Island), I made a trip with Lieut. Suckling, R.N., over the steep mountain ridge which backs the town, to the native villages of Livoni and Bureta. A corporal of the Fijian army and two prisoners, natives of Livoni, were sent by Mr. Thurston with us as guides.

The track led up the bed of a rocky mountain stream, and at times up nearly perpendicular faces of rock, which were, however, easy to climb because of the nature of the rock already alluded to, the harder embedded masses in the conglomerate weathering out so as to project and form foot-rests and convenient grasping places for the hands. As we ascended, the soil became moister, the wood denser, and the trees more and more covered with epiphytes.

Now and again we passed small cascades tumbling into basins amongst the black boulders. The rocks around were overgrown with ferns and mosses in great variety; wild plantains and beautifully variegated *Draacenas* grew in abundance, and amongst them the scarlet *Hibiscus* in full flower. The overhanging tree-stems were green with climbing ferns, or served as supports to climbing Aroids with large fenestrated leaves. The beauty of the various features of this mountain stream are, however, far beyond my powers of description.

Near the summit of the ridge, the tree stems and branches became covered with orchids, and in places were loaded with dense masses of the bird's-nest fern (*Asplenium nidus*), and large Lycopods and mosses. On the summit, a hard chase after a rat ensued, as I offered a shilling reward for the animal, which might have proved at this elevation, I thought, a Native Rat, though the black rat and Norway rat are abundant in Levuka. There was, however, so much cover under the decayed logs and undergrowth, that it soon escaped.

The ridge where we crossed it was very narrow, and we almost immediately commenced a steep descent down the bed of a stream on the other side. On the way down, a flock of Lories (*Domicella solitaria*, "Kula," Fijian), flew by, whilst the trees were full of warbling birds (*Ptilotis procerior*).

We reached Livoni, formerly a populous village, and the head-quarters of the Kaivolo or mountaineers of Ovalau, who long defied King Thackombau, murdered one of his envoys,