

are covered with a thickly interwoven vegetation, the large trees being covered with epiphytes, ferns, lycopods, and climbing aroids, and festooned with creepers, which form in places a continuous sheet of bright green, falling in gracefully curved steps from the top of the slopes to the bottom, and almost entirely concealing their supports. Here and there tall tree-ferns rear their heads amongst the tangled mass, and palms (two species of *Kentia*) form a conspicuous feature amongst the foliage. We were forced to anchor in the evening to await the turn of the tide. As it became dusk numbers of Fruit Bats flew overhead, whilst in the beds of reeds a constant cry was kept up by the coots and water rails. On the tide turning we had to take spells of an hour each at the oars as our time was short, and by paddling on gently all night we reached before daylight a spot, about 35 miles from the mouth of the river, called 'Viti.'

"Mr. Storck, a German, and his wife live at Viti. He was the assistant of Mr. Seemann during his investigation of the plants of Fiji, and was extremely hospitable. He had taken to growing sugar, as cotton had failed, and had a splendid crop, which he calculated to weigh 62 tons of cane to the acre. Mills were about to be erected, and there seemed every prospect of sugar paying well. There were already twenty plantations of sugar on the Rewa River. It was curious to see a man from the New Hebrides Islands, so notorious for the murders of white men committed in them, acting as nurse to one of Mrs. Storek's children, and hushing the baby tenderly to sleep in his arms; he was one of the imported labourers, concerning whom so much has been written. About Viti there are abundance of large Fruit Pigeons and of the pigeons with purple heads, identical with those of Tongatabu (*Ptilinopus porphyraceus*); also of the 'Kula' (*Domicella solitaria*), and the 'Kaka' (*Platycercus splendens*). The Kaka attacks the sugar canes, and does considerable damage. There are some huge fig-trees at Viti, with the typical plank-like roots and compound stems. Here also grow one or two cocoanut trees, which are rarities so far up the river, for at the inland villages along the river there are no cocoanut trees, and a regular trade is carried on by the natives in bringing the nuts up the river from the coast in canoes, to barter them with the inland people. The black rat and Norway rat are abundant at Viti, and, according to Mr. Storck, there is also a native field mouse, but I could not procure one in the short time available. I do not know whether a field mouse is known from Fiji. A large fresh water prawn is common, and is caught for eating by the Fijian women, and in their baskets I saw also an Eel (*Muraena*). A red stratified tufa, with a slight inclination of its strata, is exposed in section opposite Mr. Storek's house; it is said to contain no fossils. An exactly similar rock is exposed at various spots for several miles down the river.

"On the way down the river, the barge constantly grounded on shoals, our pilot, Joe, knowing nothing of the upper part of the river. We had to strip our clothes off constantly and jump overboard to shove the boat over the shallows, and at last stuck