

denominated Levuka, and have the character at Lakemba of being a wandering, faithless tribe, addicted occasionally to piracy. This is not considered the case elsewhere, for the Feejee men in general look upon them as a useful class, and through them they carry on the trade between the different islands.

Lakemba was found, like the rest of this group, to be of volcanic formation. The soil is similar to that of Vanua, composed of a dark red loam. The island in point of fertility will compare with any of the others, and exceeds all those of the southeast in size and productiveness. It has rich valleys, or rather ravines, gradually rising and contracting until they reach the hills. Extensive groves of cocoanuts cover its shores and low lands, and add much to its beauty.

The Porpoise proceeded to the islands of Naiau and Tabutha, both north of Lakemba.

The islands of Aro, Chichia, Mango, Vekai, Katafanga, and the reef of Malevuvu, as well as the other exploring islands, were then visited and surveyed. They are all small, and lie to the north of Tabutha.

The Peacock and the Vincennes also visited and surveyed some of these islands.

On the 17th, in company with the Porpoise and boats, the Vincennes passed over to Yendua Island; after finishing the survey of it, she stood over for Round Island, the most northern of the Asaua or Western Group.

Lieutenant Wilkes continued his surveys of the Asaua Group, consisting of the islands of Ya-asaua, Androna, Yagata, Naviti, Eld, Fox, Agate, Sinclair, including Malolo and Underwood Group. These islands, excepting the latter group, are all high, and broken into many volcanic peaks, forming many picturesque islands. They were inhabited by a very wild set, who were even looked upon with great dread by the rest of the group, from the frequent excursions they make upon the larger islands.

Linthicum Island, one of the Underwood Group, Lieutenant Wilkes occupied as a principal and last station, on the 24th, towards five o'clock in the afternoon.

While he was congratulating himself that he had now finished the survey, it was reported to him that the three boats were in sight, coming down before the breeze. So unusual an occurrence at once made him suspect that some accident had