

but it was not conspicuous. Ninety nine out of a hundred persons must be shown the Cross before they recognize it. Its a poor constellation beside our Dipper or Great Bear. The fact that the ancients did not recognize the Cross as a separate constellation, but included it in Centaur, shows that it is not very conspicuous. The people of the southern hemisphere can boast, however, of having the star nearest the earth, the bright star in Centaur. To give an idea how near it is, let us imagine it to be peopled and that the people can see things going on on the earth, then they would now be seeing the last stages of the Boer war, soldiers moving about South Africa, for the light takes over four years to travel from the earth to Alpha Centauri. Two other phenomena of the southern sky may be referred to, viz: the Coal Sacks and Magellanic Clouds. The first are dark spots in the heavens resembling small black clouds, and are due to the absence (to the naked eye) of stars. Especially one of them is well marked, but the casual observer on a clear night, would not have his attention arrested to infer its true meaning, just as the Magellanic Clouds are in reality a galaxy of stars, appearing as two fleecy, white, drifting terrestrial clouds.

The two large islands, Viti Levu and Vanna Levu, of the Fiji group are quite mountainous, and have extinct volcanoes. These mountains effect the climatic conditions materially. The prevailing winds being the South East Trades, it follows that the southeastern sides of the islands are wet, and the opposite side comparatively dry. The former is clothed with woods and rank vegetation while the latter is more of an open and grass country. The most fertile island of the group is Tavinni, the richness or fertility being due to the vulcanic soil, reminding one of Hawaii.

It is almost impossible to make a botanical collection in Fiji. In the first place so many of the specimens are of gigantic size, and in the second place, even if preserved, they would be sure to turn mouldy. My experience was that of others.

Along the roadside (Suva) many red flowers are seen, reminding one of our clover, for the resemblance is very strong. The plant that bears them is a thorny vine—the sensitive plant, which when touched closes or folds its small leaves.