

present to Captain Nares, and the large double canoe which brought the present was photographed from the ship (see Plate XIX.). The supplies at the Fiji Islands were few and expensive; the beef was, however, good, better even than the Australian meat.

Whilst at Levuka the slope from the barrier reef was taken outside the north entrance to the harbour; 65 fathoms from the edge of the reef awash the depth was 21 fathoms, or a slope of 1 in 3; at 150 fathoms' distance the depth was 80 fathoms, or a slope of 1 in 1.4 from the last sounding; farther out the slope was fairly uniform at 1 in 2 to 300 fathoms. The reefs around Kandavu have generally the character of fringing reefs, and in other places are barrier reefs. Indeed, throughout the Fiji Islands the three varieties of barrier, atoll, and fringing reefs are distributed in such a manner as to render it difficult to understand how the two former have been formed by subsidence. It has already been stated that at Kandavu there were indications of recent elevation.

A new genus and species of Reef Corals (*Tichoseris obtusata*)¹ was obtained at these islands, and some rocks, collected at Kandavu, are referable to the type of amphibolic andesite, very often containing augite and biotite, with tufa of the same composition.

Having heard at Ovalau that there were a number of natives of the New Hebrides who had just completed their engagement and wished to return to their native island (Api), which would be passed on the way to Australia, they were received on board.

On the 10th August the ship left Ngaloa Harbour, steering to the westward along the land. Passing within a moderate distance of the edge of the coral reef off Kandavu Island, it was observed that the bay next west of Ngaloa Harbour (Tomba Ya-uravu) had apparently good anchorage and a clear channel into it through the reef. In the bay are four small islands, just eastward of the large island which forms its western boundary. This island, which is round-backed, was estimated to be 700 feet high; it is called Matanuku. West of Matanuku the land trends to the westward, and then projects in the form of a peninsula, which terminates in a bluff point with a knob on it, five miles from Matanuku Island. To the westward of the knob bluff (Koro-e-Rangi) is another bay, formed between the bluff and a hill joined to the mainland by a low narrow isthmus, which makes it appear like an island when first seen. Off this False Island there is only a small reef running out to the southward, but just east of it is a reef stretching to the southwestward from the knob bluff, on which the sea breaks very heavily. There is a passage between False Island and this reef to the shore, and probably anchorage, but there appeared to be some detached reefs inside, so that it must be approached with great caution. To the westward of False Island (Thickombia) the sea was seen breaking against the sandy beach joining it to the shore, and the land trended to the northwestward, forming a bay between it and a low point (the western extremity of Kandavu Island), off which is a flat island (Denham Island), from which a reef stretches to the southwestward. At Denham Island the reef apparently ended. The whole of Kandavu

¹ Quelch, *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 5, vol. xiii. p. 296, 1884.