

vated parts of the ridges, where the frequent rains and more frequent mists or clouds afford them the nourishing moisture, which, on the leeward side, is too scantily supplied to the slopes below.

The appearances described vary somewhat upon the different islands, and also upon the opposite sides of the same island. Forest vegetation descends lower on the eastern declivities, which are well supplied with moisture from the trade winds. If our experience is any criterion for a general fact, we should judge that the rain of the southeastern side of Viti Lebu, at least trebles that of the opposite side. A few of the smaller basaltic islands, as I am informed, are covered throughout with luxuriant vegetation. Somo-somo, an island of considerable importance, has been compared to Upolu in richness.

The indentations of the shores around the several islands, are numerous and large; but there are few which would form well-protected harbours without coral reefs as breakwaters. One or two of the deep bays which do exist among these islands are very remarkable. Such is the bay in the small island of Fulanga. The island is but a rim of land,—an elevated ridge—nearly surrounding the large bay or lagoon, which is fifteen miles wide and forty fathoms deep. In Vanua Lebu, there is a bay thirty miles deep, running half through the island and bordered on each side by a mountain ridge. Neither of these bays was visited by the writer.

We deem it unnecessary to enter into a particular description of each of the islands in this archipelago, which, moreover, could not be done from personal observation. The general remarks above made will supply the place of much tedious detail. My investigations were limited to the island of Ovalau and the two large islands Viti Lebu and Vanua Lebu; and in these islands they were restricted to a very small portion of the surface. The treachery of the savages compelled us to confine ourselves, in all instances, to the coast, and even there, we should have been clubbed, and soon served up for a feast, were it not for the salutary influence of our ships, and in part, also, the protection of our private weapons. Some afflicting events, of which a recital may be found in the history of the voyage, gave us most painful evidence of the necessity of caution among these savages.

*Viti Lebu*, the largest island of the Feejee Group, is traversed by several mountain ridges, which rise, in some parts, into abrupt cones with sharp or truncated summits, having an elevation of at least