

cut up into numerous islands by the intersecting mouths. It consists of fine mud from the basaltic rocks of the mountains, and near Rewa, which is six miles from its mouth, scarcely a pebble as large as a walnut is to be seen. The bed of the river often changes its position; and during freshets, large portions of the banks are carried off, which form shifting sand-banks in the body of the stream, or are transported to the bay, where several large shoals have been accumulated. I learned from a foreigner who had resided there the preceding ten years, that the river at Rewa had doubled its breadth in that time; and the numerous cocoanut stumps which stood far out in the stream, attested this fact. Another person, who had resided there forty years, stated that during this period, the deposits had lengthened the river half a mile, by encroaching this much on the bay; but I know not how much reliance should be placed on this evidence. All attempts to arrive at more satisfactory results as to the rate of progress in the extension of the delta, proved unavailing. The surveys of the river and harbour by the Expedition will afford data for future comparison to those who may follow us.

The water from this river has destroyed all the living coral on the inner margin of the barrier reef, which, where nearest, is about two and a half miles from its mouth; and, moreover, the whole surface of the reef scarcely bears a live branch, except towards its outer limits, and there, the species are but few and small. There was a time when growing coral was forming these reefs which are now lifeless, and the period was sufficiently long to widen the barrier reef to one or two miles. We have no reason to suppose less rain to have fallen then than now; and how was it carried off without injury to the growing reefs? for the various mouths are all fronted by reefs, and none are more than five miles distant. We may, perhaps, refer to the period, when, before the formation of the delta, the river's mouth was several miles nearer the mountains than at present. But still this distance of the reef from the river may not have been necessary; for the water of the island streams freshens the surface only to the depth of the river itself, and can destroy growing coral to no greater depth.

Other rivers, of equal size, exist on the island of Viti Lebu, but this is the only one examined.

*Vanua Lebu*, the second island among the Feejees, has a much less uneven surface than Viti Lebu. Few of the summits exceed two thousand feet in elevation, and none are more than three thousand feet. The ridges are lower on the west side, and less irregular, with