

the southwestward of Vavao. A few hours after, they passed over another shoal, and were in nine fathoms; but the shoal was of much less extent.

At noon they took a white man, as pilot, on board, and passed into the fine bay of Vavao, called Port Refuge. In going in, they passed a large number of rocky islets, uninhabited, and of volcanic formation. The pilot informed Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold that there were still five of the Shylock's crew on the island, the rest having been taken off by H. B. M. sloop *Favourite*, bound for Sydney.

The Porpoise anchored in twenty-seven fathoms water, in the outer harbour of Port Refuge. This harbour is an extensive and beautiful sheet of water, studded with many islets with bold and steep shores; there is little tide, and no concealed dangers. They were boarded by a canoe, which showed a printed document in Tongese and English, containing the regulations of the port; among them was one prohibiting the introduction and sale of spirits, and another fixing the fees for pilotage, and other services.

The inner harbour is completely land-locked, and on its shores the village is situated, which is of considerable size, with a large native mission church, and a good parsonage-house. The town, as well as island, looked desolate, from the effects of the severe hurricanes, of which they have had for several years a succession. The houses, fences, trees, &c., were many of them prostrate and going to ruin. Few natives are to be seen, and those are only the old, decrepit, and very young; for all the warriors had accompanied King George to Tongataboo, to carry on the war against the Devil's party.

Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold, and his officers, visited the mission, and found the parsonage exceedingly comfortable and well-arranged, exhibiting a strong contrast to the devastation and ruin of the native huts and houses. The Rev. Mr. Thomas is the resident missionary. A printing-press is established here.

The missionaries from Tonga had lately made their escape, in H. B. M. ship *Favourite*, from the seat of war. The report of the death of the commander of the *Favourite*, Captain Croker, which I had heard at Somu-somu, was confirmed; and apprehensions appeared to be entertained that King George and his forces, or the Christian party, would have to abandon their attempt to reduce the Devil's town, and force the inhabitants to become Christians.

The natives of Vavao were equally good-looking with those of