

CLAIMS

*Engagement signed on board United States sloop of war "John Adams",
Levuka Harbor, Ovalau, Fiji Islands, October 23, 1855
Obsolete*¹

7 Miller 283

I, Tui Viti, and Chief of Bau, promise to pay John B. Williams, U.S. Commercial Agent, in twelve months from this date, with interest, Fifteen thousand dollars, in the products of the Feejee Islands, for the destruction of American property, and being the amount demanded of me by Commander Boutwell, Commanding U.S. Ship "John Adams". I likewise pledge myself hereafter to treat all Americans with justice, and kindness, to protect them and their property when they come to, or are cast away on these Islands, and to punish all who maltreat them: unless there be a man of war present: in that case the criminals shall be given up to the Commander, if she be an American. In the absence of an American man of war, the American Consul shall be consulted in all cases where Americans are interested. I do further promise to abolish the punishment of death, except for the following offences viz Murder, Arson, Cannibalism, and Rape, which must be proved to the satisfaction of three impartial judges; all minor offences shall be punished by hard labor. I further promise to respect the Missionaries of all countries, and to persecute none. I will place no obstacles in the way of my people becoming Christians, but on the contrary will encourage them to become so. I promise to make peace with all nations, and never to invite the Tonga people to interfere in the affairs of these Islands again. I promise to send Phillip's Son, the young Chief of Rewa home without delay. I give my free consent to all chiefs who have been forced to leave Bau, to return without delay to their homes. In paying the debts due to Citizens of the United States I will furnish to the Commercial Agent J. B. Williams Esqr, Beche de mar, at Fifteen dollars per picul of 140 lbs, Gum five dollars per picul, Cocoa Nut Oil, Seventy five dollars to the Tun, and other articles, the products of these Islands, at the prevailing prices. If at the end of the period named to pay all American claims, they should not be settled to the satisfaction of the American Commercial Agent, I promise on the arrival of a Ship of War belonging to that

¹ Fiji came under British rule in 1874.