

## CLAIMS

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

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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

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<sup>1</sup> Fiji came under British rule in 1874.

nation to resign the government of Bau, and go voluntarily on board that ship, and submit to any punishment which it may be the pleasure of her Commander to inflict. In addition to the demand made on me by Commander Boutwell, I further pledge myself to pay into the hands of the U.S. Commercial Agent, for American Citizens a further sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars, the latter sum to be paid in Eighteen months from the day of signing this paper. And I further declare that if these Islands are taken possession of by Either England, or France within this period, I will demand of the Nation taking possession, the payment of all claims now acknowledged to be due from Feejee to American Citizens. I wish however to have it distinctly understood, that in signing this paper I do not assent to, or express any wish, to cede these Islands to any nation whatever. I have further promised to pay the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars in two years from this date, and I will endeavour to Collect Seven Thousand Dollars of the Amount from the Rewa district. If they refuse to pay this amount, in one year from this date, I will report the thing to the Commander of the first American Man of War that arrives at these Islands.

Making in all Forty five thousand Dollars

The Town of Suva, and the District of Sulara, to pay Six thousand Six Hundred Dollars of this amount

ON BOARD U.S. SHIP "JOHN ADAMS"  
LEVUKA, OVALAU, FEEJEE ISLANDS  
*October 23<sup>d</sup> 1855.*

E. B. BOUTWELL  
*Commander*

His  
VUNIVALA X or TUI VITI  
mark

Witness to Signatures

JOHN B. WILLIAMS  
DAVID WHIPPY  
JOHN B. MACOMBER