

the carpenters were therefore ordered to caulk her, and to repair any other defects they might discover.

In the course of this day (the 31st of March) the news of our arrival brought vast numbers of the natives about our ships. At one time we counted above a hundred canoes, each of which, on an average, had five people on board; few containing less than three; many having seven, eight, or nine; and one was manned with seventeen.

We found, however, that they were as fond of pilfering as any we had met with during our voyage; and they were much more mischievous than any of the other thieves we had found, for, having sharp instruments in their possession, they could, the instant that our backs were turned, cut a hook from a tackle, or a piece of iron from a rope.

Besides other articles, we lost several hooks in this manner, one of which weighed between twenty and thirty pounds.— They stripped our boats of every morsel of iron that was worth taking away, though some of our men were always left in them as a guard. They were indeed so dexterous in effecting their purposes, that one fellow would contrive to amuse our people at one end of the boat, while another was forcing off the iron work at the other end. If an article that had been stolen, was immediately missed, the thief was easily detected, as they were fond of impeaching each other. But the prize was always reluctantly given up by the guilty person, and sometimes compulsive means were obliged to be exercised for that purpose.

Our ships being safely moored, we proceeded the next day to other necessary business. The observatories were taken ashore, and placed upon a rock, on one side of the cove, not far from the Resolution. A party of men was ordered out to cut wood, and clear a place for watering. Having plenty of pine trees here, others were employed in brewing spruce beer. The forge was also erected, to make the necessary iron work for repairing the foremast, which had one of the ribs defective, and was otherwise incomplete.

We were daily visited by a considerable number of the natives, and among them we frequently saw new faces. They had a singular mode of introducing themselves on their first appearance. They paddled with their utmost strength and activity round both the ships; a chief at this time standing up with a spear in his hand, and speaking, or rather bawling, most vociferously.

In the afternoon we resumed our work, and, the next day, rigged the foremast; the head of which not being large enough for the cap, the carpenter was ordered to fill up the vacant space. In examining the state of the mast-head for this purpose, both cheeks were discovered to be rotted, inasmuch that there was not a possibility of repairing them. We were therefore obliged to get the mast out, and to supply it with a new one.

In the morning of the 7th of April, having got the foremast out, we hauled it ashore, and the carpenters were set to work