

them a bed of the boughs of some trees, and covered them over thick with the same. As all hands had been employed in endeavouring to move these poor blacks to the fire, and had been exposed to the cold for near an hour and an half in the attempt, some of them began to be afflicted in the same manner as those whom they were to relieve. Briscoe, another servant of Mr. Banks, in particular, began to lose his sensibility. At last they reached the fire, and passed the night in a very disagreeable manner.

The party that set out from the ship had consisted of twelve; two of these were already judged to be dead, it was doubtful whether the third would be able to return on board, and Mr. Buchan, a fourth, seemed to be threatened with a return of his fits. The ship they reckoned to be at the distance of a long day's journey, through an unfrequented wood, in which they might probably be bewildered till night, and having been equipped only for a journey of a few hours, they had not a sufficiency of provisions left to afford the company a single meal.

At day-break on the 17th nothing presented itself to the view all around but snow, which covered alike the trees and the ground; and the blasts of wind were so frequent and violent, that their journey seemed to be rendered impracticable, and they had reason to dread perishing with cold and famine. However, about six in the morning, they were flattered with a dawn of hope of being delivered, by discovering the sun through the clouds, which gradually diminished. Before their setting out, messengers were dispatched to the unhappy negroes; but these returned with the melancholy news of their death. Though the sky had flattered the hopes of the survivors, the snow continued falling very fast, a circumstance which impeded their journey, but a breeze springing up about eight o'clock, added to the influence of the sun, began to clear the air, and the snow falling in large flakes from the trees, gave tokens of a thaw. Hunger prevailing over every other consideration, induced our travellers to divide the small remainder of their provisions, and to set forward on their journey about ten in the morning. To their great astonishment and satisfaction, in about three hours they found themselves on the shore, and much nearer to the ship than their most sanguine expectations could have suggested. When they looked back upon their former route from the sea, they found that instead of ascending the hill in a direct line, they had made a circle almost round the country. On their return, these wanderers received such congratulations from those on board as can more easily be imagined than expressed.

Mr. Banks and Dr. Solander went on shore again on the 20th of this month, landing in the bottom of the bay, where they collected a number of shells and plants, hitherto unknown. After having returned to dinner, they went to visit an Indian town, about two miles up the country, the access to which, on account of the mud, was difficult. When they approached the town, two of the natives came out to meet them, who began to shout in their usual manner. They afterwards conducted Mr. Banks and the Doctor to their town. It was situate on a small hill, over-shaded with wood, and consisted of about a dozen huts, constructed without art or regularity. They were composed of a few poles inclining to each other in the shape of a sugar-loaf, which were covered on the weather side with grass and boughs, and on the other side a space was left open, which served at once for a fire-place and a door. They were of the same nature of the huts that had been seen at St. Vincent's Bay. A little grass served for beds and chairs, and their utensils were a basket for the hand, a satchel to hang upon the back, and a bladder for water, out of which they drank through a hole near the top. This town was inhabited by a tribe of about fifty men, women, and children. Their bows and arrows were constructed with neatness and ingenuity, being made of wood highly polished, and the point which was either glass or flint, very skillfully fitted. These latter substances were observed among them unwrought,

as also cloth, rings, buttons, &c. from whence it was concluded that they sometimes travelled to the northward, as no ship, for years past, had touched at this part of Terra del Fuego. The natives here did not shew any surprise at the sight of fire arms, but appeared to be well acquainted with their use. It is likely that the spot on which the Doctor and Mr. Banks met them, was not a fixed habitation, as their houses did not seem as if they were erected to stand for any long time, and they had no boats or canoes among them. They did not appear to have any form of government or any ideas of subordination. They seemed to be the very out-casts of men; and a people that passed their lives in wandering in a forlorn manner over dreary wastes; their dwelling being a thatched hovel, and their clothing scarcely sufficient to keep them from perishing with cold, even in these climates. Their only food was shell-fish, which on any one spot must soon be exhausted; nor had they the rudest implement of art, not even so much as was necessary to dress their food, yet amidst all this, we are told, that they appeared to enjoy that content which is seldom found in great and populous cities; a species of content, which if they really enjoyed it, must have arisen from stupidity, a satisfaction the offspring of the greatest ignorance. Such is the state of uncultivated nature; such the rude form which uncivilized man puts on. The wants of these people seemed to be few; but some wants all mankind must have, and even the most simple of them, these poor savages appeared scarcely in a condition to gratify. The calls of hunger and thirst must be obeyed, or man must perish, yet the people in question seemed to depend on chance for the means of answering them. Those who can be happy in such a situation, can only be so, because they have not a due feeling of their misery. We know that there have been admirers of simple nature amongst the philosophers of all ages and nations; and certainly simple nature has her beauties. In regard to the vegetative and brute creation, she operates with restless energy; her power is prevalent as her pencil is inimitable; but when we ascend in the scale of beings, and come to examine the human race, what shall we find them, without cultivation? It is here that instinct ends and reason begins, and without entering into the question, Whether a state of nature is a state of war? when we observe the innumerable inconveniences to which those are subject on whom the light of science never dawned, we may easily determine in the favour of those arts which have civilized mankind, formed them into societies, refined their manners, and taught the nations where they have prevailed, to protect those rights which the untutored savages have ever been obliged to yield to the superior abilities of their better instructed invaders, and have thus fallen a prey to European tyranny.

We observed in this place seals, sea-lions, and dogs, and no other quadrupeds; nevertheless it is probable there are other kinds of animals in the country; for Mr. Banks remarked, from a hill, an impression of the foot-steps of a large animal on the surface of a bog, but of what kind it was he could not determine. Not any land-birds were seen larger than an English black-bird, hawks and vultures excepted. Ducks and other water-fowls we saw in abundance; also shell fish, clams, and limpets. The country though uncleared had neither gnat, musquito, nor any other noxious or troublesome animals. A great variety of plants were found by the Doctor and Mr. Banks. The wild celery and scurvy grass are supposed to contain antiscorbutic qualities, which will therefore be of service to the crews of such ships as hereafter may touch at this place, after a long voyage. The latter is found in abundance near springs and in damp places, particularly at the watering place in the bay of Good Success, and it resembles the English cuckoo flower, or lady's-smock. The wild celery is like what grows in our gardens in England, but the leaves are of a deeper green. This plant may be found in plenty near the beach, and upon the land above the spring tides. In taste it is between that of celery and parsley. The grateful serman, long confined