

be stolen they laid hands on. A second boat was similarly treated, and they evidently opposed any landing being made with hostile demonstrations, bending their bows and intimating their intention to shoot if we persisted in the attempt. Very judiciously we gave way, although all were fully armed, and the boats returned to the ship, everyone feeling disappointed at the result.

Later in the day another attempt was made to land at a village on the other side of the bay. A large crowd soon collected around us, and followed in our track through the village. In what might be considered full dress (?), with their faces and body painted (the most common fashion was a broad streak down the forehead and a circle round each eye, with daubs of paint round the mouth, and some over the entire body, rendering them inexpressibly hideous in our sight), they were often decorated with belts and breastplates made of the bones of the cassowary and dog, together with long streamers of pandanus leaf. Nearly every one was armed with bows and arrows. The bow is made of a tough, black, closegrained wood, the string being of bamboo. They are variously barbed on the edges, and some are so constructed as to break off in the wound and remain there.

The village consisted of some dozen or twenty houses, built on a platform on slender posts standing in the water, and connected with the mainland by a sort of bridge. They have tall tapering roofs, covered with palm leaves. As it was not considered safe to venture far, after a few hours the pinnace returned to the ship, still followed by a flotilla of canoes, with the lively and excitable natives trying to keep pace. The canoes, usually from twenty to thirty feet in length, are made from the trunk of a tree hollowed out like a long trough. A long outrigger is attached, and on the portion of framing supporting these outriggers are planks or long bamboos, forming a small stage, which will accommodate two or more persons, and on which articles for barter are stowed.

As nothing farther could be done here, steam was in requisition, and before night set in we were fairly off, and out of sight of land. For a week we shaped an easterly course for the Admiralty Islands, sighting Boissy Islands, and on the 28th one of the Schouten Islands, and a few days later the Hermit group. Frequent soundings and dredgings were undertaken with good results, from an average depth of 2,000 fathoms. On the 3rd of March three small islets were seen which lie off the Admiralty