

by a word which apparently has no meaning ; when he asked for 10,000,000, they said 'laoalai,' which I will leave unexplained ; for 100,000,000, 'laounoua,' that is to say, 'nonsense ;' while for the higher numbers they gave him certain coarse expressions, which he has gravely published in his table of numerals.

A mistake made by Dampier led to more serious results. He had met some Australians, and apprehending an attack, he says :—' I discharged my gun to 'scare them, but avoided shooting any of them ; till 'finding the young man in great danger from them, 'and myself in some, and that though the gun had a 'little frightened them at first, yet *they had soon learnt to despise it*, tossing up their hands, and crying "Pooh, "pooh, pooh!" and coming on afresh with a great 'noise, I thought it high time to charge again, and 'shoot one of them, which I did. The rest, seeing him 'fall, made a stand again, and my young man took the 'opportunity to disengage himself, and come off to me ; 'my other man also was with me, who had done nothing 'all this while, having come out unarmed ; and I returned back with my men, designing to attempt the 'natives no farther, being very sorry for what had 'happened already.'<sup>1</sup> 'Pooh, pooh,' however, or 'puff, 'puff,' is the name which savages, like children, naturally apply to guns.

Another source of error is, that savages are often reluctant to contradict what is said to them. Livingstone calls special attention to this as a characteristic of the natives of Africa.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Oldfield,<sup>3</sup> again,

<sup>1</sup> Pinkerton's *Voyages*, vol. xi. p. 473.

<sup>2</sup> *Expedition to the Zambesi*, p. 309.

<sup>3</sup> *Trans. Ethn. Soc., N.S., vol. iii. p. 255.*