

that admits of little or no variation, as, perhaps, to foreigners, who are unacquainted with the language and manners of a country, there may appear to be in every stage exhibition, wherever performed. Be that as it may, we now beheld a more numerous and brilliant company of performers assembled for our entertainment, than we had ever seen on any stage in the tropical islands before. On this occasion, the dresses were entirely new, and by far more elegant and picturesque than formerly; the number of dancers were increased; and they acquitted themselves in a very distinguished manner. Ten young ladies composed the first group, with their heads most magnificently ornamented with beads, red feathers, shells of the most beautiful colours, and wreathed with flowers in so elegant a style, as hardly to be excelled. A party of warriors were next introduced, dressed in their war habits, consisting, as has already been observed, of different coloured cloth, of their own manufacture, so ingeniously fashioned, and blended together with so much art, as, with the helmits that cover their heads, to fill the stage with men, of whose majestic figure it is not easy to conceive an idea. These were armed with spears, lances, and clubs; and exhibited all the forms of attack and defence, which are practised in real action. The principal performers were the king's brother, his three sisters, and we may add; a chief of a gigantic stature, who displayed such surprizing grimaces and distortions of face and countenance, by way of provocation and challenge, as were not only laughable in some attitudes, but terrible in others. After these disappeared, the players came forward, and performed a more serious piece than we had yet seen, at which the natives sat graver and more composed than usual; though some comic interludes, wherein four men were performers, seemed to afford greater entertainment to the numerous audience.