

branches of trees, according to their custom, and whom it was thought proper to retain. When they returned to the tent, they found that an Indian having snatched away one of the centinel's musquets, a young midshipman, who commanded the party, was so imprudent as to give the marines orders to fire, which were obeyed, and many of the natives were wounded; but this did not satisfy them, as the offender had not fallen, they therefore pursued him and revenged the theft by his death. This action, which was equally inconsistent with policy and humanity, could not but be very displeasing to Mr. Banks; but as what had passed could not be recalled, nothing remained but to endeavour to accommodate matters with the Indians. Accordingly he crossed the river where he met an old man, through whose mediation several of the natives were prevailed to come over to them, and to give the usual tokens of friendship. The next morning, however, they saw but few of the natives on the banks, and none came on board, from whence it was concluded that the treatment they had received the former day was not yet forgotten, and the English were confirmed in this opinion by Owhah's having left them. In consequence of these circumstances, the captain brought the ship nearer to the shore, and moored her in such a manner as to make her broad-side bear on the spot which they had marked out for erecting their little fortification. But in the evening the captain and some of the gentlemen going on shore, the Indians came round them, and trafficked with them as usual.

Mr. Banks on the 17th, had the misfortune to lose Mr. Bachan. The same day they received a visit from Tubourai Tamaida, and Footahab. They brought with them some plantain branches, and till these were received, they would not venture on board. The bartered some bread-fruit and a hog which was ready dressed, for nails, with the English.

The fort began to be erected on the 18th. And now some of the company were employed in throwing up intrenchments, whilst others were busied in cutting fascines and pickets, in which work the Indians assisted them. They fortified three sides of the place, with intrenchments, and palisades, and upon the other which was flanked by a river, where a breast-work was formed by the water-atks. The natives brought down such quantities of bread-fruit and coconuts this day, that it was necessary, to relieve them, and to let them know that none would be wanting for two days. Mr. Banks slept for the first time on shore this night. None of the Indians attempted to approach his tent, he had however taken the precaution of placing centinels about it, for its defence, in case any attack should be meditated.

Tubourai Tamaida visited Mr. Banks at his tent on Wednesday the 19th, and brought with him his wife and family with the materials for erecting a house intending to build it near the fort. He afterwards asked that gentleman to accompany him to the woods. On their arrival at a place where he sometimes resided, he presented his guests with two garments, one of which was of red cloth, and the other was made of fine matting; having thus clothed Mr. Banks, he conducted him to the ship, and staid to dinner with his wife and son. They had a dish served up that day, which was prepared by the attendants of Tubourai Tamaida, which seemed like wheat flour, and being mixed with coconut lipidor, it was stirred about till it became a jelly. Its flavour was something like blanc mange. A fort of market was now established without the lines of the fort, which was tolerably well supplied, and Tubourai Tamaida was a frequent guest to Mr. Banks, and the other English gentlemen. He was the only native that attempted to use a knife and fork, being fond of adopting European manners. Mr. Monkhouse the surgeon being abroad on his evening walk, reported that he had seen the body of a man who had been shot from the tent, of which he gave the following account.—“The corpse was deposited in a sled, close to the house where the deceased had resided when he was alive, and others were within ten yards of it. It was about fifteen feet in length, and eleven in breadth, and

the height was proportionable. The sides and one end were inclosed with a sort of wicker work; the other end was intirely open. The body lay on a bier, the frame of which was of wood, supported by posts about five feet high, and was covered with a mat, over which lay a white cloth: by the side of it lay a wooden mace, and towards the head two cocoa shells; towards the feet was a bunch of green leaves, and small dried boughs tied together, and stuck in the ground, near which was a stone about the size of a cocoa-nut; here were also placed a young plantain tree, and a stone axe. A great many palm nuts were hung in strings at the open end of the sled; and the stem of a palm-tree was stuck up on the outside of it, upon which was placed a cocoa-shell filled with water. At the side of one of the posts there hung a little bag with some roasted pieces of bread-fruit.” The natives were not pleased at his approaching the body, their jealousy appearing plainly in their countenances and gestures.

On the 22d we were entertained by some of the musicians of the country, who performed on an instrument somewhat resembling a german flute, but the performer blew through his nostril instead of his mouth, and others accompanied this instrument, singing only one tune. Some of the Indians brought their axes to grind and repair, most of which they had obtained from Captain Wallis and his people in the Dolphin; but a French one occasioned a little speculation, and at length upon enquiry, it appeared to have been left here by M. de Bougainville.

On the 24th Mr. Banks and Dr. Solander made an excursion into the country, and found it level and fertile along the shore, for about two miles to the eastward; after which the hills reached quite to the water's edge; and further on they ran out into the sea. Having passed these hills, which continued about three miles, we came to an extensive plain, abounding with good habitations, and the people seemed to enjoy a considerable share of property. The place was rendered still more agreeable by a wide river, issuing from a valley, and which watered it. We crossed this river, when perceiving the country to be barren, we resolved to return. Just as we were about so to do, we were offered some refreshment by a man, which some writers have expressed to be a mixture of many nations, but different from all, his skin being of a dead white, though some parts of his body were not so white as others; and his hair, eye-brows and beard were as white as his skin. His eyes appeared like those that are blood-shot, and he seemed as if he was near-sighted. Upon our return, the excessive joy of Tubourai Tamaida and his women is not to be expressed.

On the 25th, in the evening, several of the gentlemen knives being missing, Mr. Banks, who had lost his among the rest, accused Tubourai Tamaida of having taken it, which as he was innocent, occasioned him a great deal of unmerited anxiety. He made signs, while the tears started from his eyes, that if he had ever been guilty of such a theft as was imputed to him, he would suffer his throat to be cut. But though he was innocent, it was plain from many instances, that the natives of this island were very much addicted to thieving; though Mr. Banks's servant had mislaid the knife in question, yet the rest were produced in a rag, by one of the natives.

When the guns on the 26th, which were six swivels, had been mounted on the fort, the Indians seemed to be in great trouble, and several of the fishermen removed, fearing, notwithstanding all the marks of friendship that had been shewn to them by our people, they should, within a few days, be fired at from the fort: yet the next day, being the 27th, Tubourai Tamaida came with three women, and a friend of his, who was a remarkable glutton, into the fort to dine with us, and after dinner returned to his own house in the wood. In a short time after he came back to complain to Mr. Banks, of a butcher, who had threatened to cut his wife's throat, because she would not barter a stone hatchet for a nail. It appearing clearly that the offender