morning we stood in for the land, and were met by se-
veral canoes filled with people ; some of whom took courage
and ventured on board.   In the course of my several voy-
ages I never before met with the natives of any place so
much astonished, as these people were upon entering the
ship.   Their eyes were continually flying from object to
object ; the wildness of their looks and gestures fully ex-
pressing their entire ignorance about every thing they saw,
and strongly marking to us, that, till now, they had never
been visited by Europeans, nor been acquainted with any
of our commodities, except iron ; which, however, it was
plain, they had only heard of, or had known it in some
small quantity, brought to them at some distant period.
They seemed only to understand that it was a substance,
much better adapted to the purposes of cutting or of boring
holes, than any thing their own country produced.   They
asked for it by the name of hamaite, probably referring to
some instrument, in the making of which iron could be use-
fully employed ; for they applied that name to the blade of
a knife, though we were certain that they had no idea of
that particular instrument ; nor could they at all handle it
properly.   For the same reason they frequently called iron
by the name of toe, which, in their language, signifies a
hatchet, or rather a kind of adze.   On asking them what
iron was, they immediately answered " We do not know ;
you know what it is, and we only understand it as toe, or
hamaite."   When we shewed them some beads, they asked
first, " What they were ; and then whether they should eat
them."   But on their being told that they were to be hung
in their ears, they returned them as useless.   They w...e
equally indifferent as to a looking glass, which was offered
them, and returned it for the same reason ; but sufficiently
expressed their desire for hamaite and toe, which they
wished might be very large.   Plates of earthen-ware, china-
cups, and other such things, were so new to them, that they
asked if they were made of wood ; but wished to have some,