

ship. Comekela, who for several days had been in a state of the most anxious impatience, now enjoyed the inexpressible delight of once more beholding his native land, to which he returned with the conscious pride of knowledge acquired by his voyage, and in the possession of those articles of utility or decoration, which would create the wonder, and encrease the respect of his nation. His joy, however, received no inconsiderable interruption from the absence of his brother Maquilla, the chief of King George's Sound, and his relation Callicum, who stood next in rank to the sovereign. These chiefs were, at this time, on a visit of ceremony to Wicananish, a powerful prince of a tribe to the Southward. Of this circumstance we were informed by Hannapa, who in the absence of the two superior chiefs was left in power at Nootka, and who was come on board to pay us a visit.

1783.

May.

At this time Comekela was dressed in a scarlet regimental coat, decorated with brass buttons,—a military hat set off with a flaunting cockade, decent linens, and other appendages of European dress, which was far more than sufficient to excite the extreme admiration of his countrymen. Nor was Hannapa insensible to the appearance of Comekela; for he regarded him not only with the most prying attention, but also with striking expressions of that envy which is a very prevalent passion among the natives of this part of America.

In a short time the ship was surrounded with a great number of canoes, which were filled with men, women and children; they brought also considerable supplies of fish, and we did not hesitate a moment to purchase an article so very acceptable to people just arrived from a long and toilsome voyage.

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