

We left Faté on the 11th October, and reached Espiritu Santo on the 13th. We sailed up along the eastern side of the island, rounded the north end, and returned by the west side. Our destination was the west side of the island, for the natives on the east coast are very savage, and shun intercourse with foreigners. We found it difficult to make our way along the coast, as calms prevail during a great part of the year, being caused by the high lands, which intercept the regular trade winds. The heat was very oppressive during our visit, and the thermometer stood at 98° in the shade. The constant heat must have a debilitating effect on strangers, but the natives looked robust and healthy. The rain falls here in larger quantities than on the smaller islands. The natives appear to be a mixed race, some being very light, and others very dark. The men wear very little covering, and the women less, which gives them a repulsive appearance. All the cruel customs of the other islands prevail here, but the natives seem to indulge less in war.

As soon as we reached the calm on the lee side of the islands, the natives came off to trade with yams, &c., for which they received calico, knives, and fish hooks. On the morning of October 14, I landed at a place called Pakuru. A large number of men, women and children collected on the shore, who were friendly but timid. I asked for the chief, and two venerable-looking old men soon made their appearance. They had all the dignified bearing of chiefs, and their arms, legs and bodies were loaded with ornaments such as I had not seen in the southern islands of the group. I explained, through an interpreter, the object of my visit, and, before parting, gave each of them a present of red calico, &c., which they seemed to value. On the evening of this day, some natives came off to the vessel from a place called Pilia, to trade, and one of their number remained on board, intending to land in the morning. We were surprised by a visit from a canoe, long after dark, when we were four miles from the land. The natives had come off for the man who intended to spend the night with us. They told us that a vessel had previously come here and stolen a chief and six men who had gone on board to trade.

*October 15th.*—We were in sight of a place called Naku-in-chirn this morning, which had been strongly recommended by a friendly trader as an eligible place for a mission station. There were also two young men here who had spent more than a year with Mr. Gordon, on Erromanga, and I was desirous to see them. While we were at breakfast, the *Moul-seevee*, or high chief, came on board. He is a noble looking man, with a pleasing expression of countenance. His appearance was dignified, and he had on him all the insignia worn by chiefs of the highest rank. We invited him to join us at breakfast, but he declined; and our interpreter said that he would die if he were to eat with us. We were afterwards told that chiefs of his rank have food cooked expressly for themselves, and that no person dare to eat their food, neither dare they eat food prepared for others; the very fire on which their food is cooked is sacred to them. After breakfast the boat was lowered, and the chief accompanied me, leaving his own canoe to follow. We had to pull about six miles, as there was no wind, and the vessel was drifting with the currents. The chief piloted us to a good landing place, near the neat village in which he resides. A large number of men, women and children were assembled on the shore to receive us. I followed the chief to his house in the centre of the village, but there was nothing attractive about it. It was a long low building, thatched with grass, and kept in good order. There were some tattooed ladies about the house, which I took to be the chief's wives. The only articles in the house were mats, bundles of native property, a large quantity of native pottery, and some sandel wood. I purchased some pieces of pottery, and paid for them in calico. The chief then led me to a small building which he was desirous that I should see. It contained a large number of pigs' jaw bones, with the tusks still in them, which were of immense size, and must have been the growth of years. My interpreter