

drew near to the landing-place, about two hundred armed men took their station at no great distance from them, in a somewhat suspicious attitude. The appearance of this motley group of naked savages was by no means prepossessing, as with painted faces and hideous looks they grasped their muskets, spears, and clubs, and watched every movement of the strangers. As they stepped on shore, the missionaries expressed their good will to the natives in their own language, a little of which they had already learned; but they received no response to their friendly salutations, and felt somewhat perplexed to know how to proceed. They were at length relieved from their difficulty, on being informed that the King was waiting to see them, and to ascertain the object of their visit to his country.

On being introduced to the King, in the presence of his chiefs and counsellors, the missionaries made known the object of their visit, and were welcomed by the simultaneous clapping of the hands of all the natives present. The King asked many questions, and finally pledged himself to grant to the missionaries a piece of ground to live on; to erect houses for them; to protect them and their families and property from molestation, and to listen to their instructions.

The missionaries were well aware that the apparent cordial reception that had been given to them by the King and people of Lakemba was to be attributed, not to their desire for religious instruction, but to the hope which they entertained that they would derive temporal benefit from their coming and that they would soon become possessed of the goods which they had brought for presents and for barter. They were, therefore, obliged to proceed with extreme caution, knowing that they had to deal with a designing, cruel, and treacherous people. There were instances fresh in the recollection of everybody illustrative of this, an entire ship's crew having been caught off, and the vessel seized, by the unstable and crafty natives not long before, which suggested the necessity of constant vigilance, prayer, and faith on the part of the brethren.

In personal appearance the Fijians are stout and robust, and care little about clothing, except on state occasions, when they paint their bodies, and pay special attention to the dressing of the hair, that they may be up to the fashion, as may be seen in the engraving on page 386. The Fijians are remarkably observant,