

anchor at about a mile from shore, saw distinctly men on horseback, who beckoned to them.

On approaching the coast there appeared manifest signs of fear in the countenances of those, who were going on shore in the boat, when they perceived at the water side men of a prodigious stature. The Commodore, animated with the idea of making a discovery relative to these Patagonians, the question of whose existence had for a long time furnished matter of conversation in England, was the first who leaped on shore, and was followed by his officers and seamen well armed, whom he drew up in a posture of defence. The savages, to the number of about 200, immediately ran up to them, looking at them with an air of the greatest surprize, and smiling at the disproportion in size between the English and themselves.

The Commodore made signs to them to sit down, which they complied with; and he put about their necks collars of enamelled beads, and ribbands, giving to each of them some such trifling ornament. Their size is so extraordinary, that even sitting they were almost as high as the Commodore when he stood upright. (p. 77.)

Their middle stature seemed to be about eight feet, and the highest above nine*. The English did not use any measure to ascertain this; but we have reason, say they, to believe, the account we give rather falls short of, than exceeds, the truth. (p. 78.) The size of the women is as surprizing as that of the men, and the children are in the same proportions. The women wore necklaces and bracelets. (p. 79.) Their cloaths were made of the skins of Peruvian sheep, which covered their shoulders, and came down as far as their knees. The greatest part of them were on horseback, before we landed; but they alighted, and left their horses at some distance. The horses have the appearance of being

* The Commodore is said, in the preface to the same Account, (p. 61.) to be six feet high. It must be remembered, that the English foot is near an inch less than the French standard foot.