

stantly boiling. On approaching, the mind is awe-struck by its very large and desolate-like appearance, and by the smoke ascending from its thousand little orifices all around; but as we stood and sat upon the very edge of the crater, there was an awful grandeur in the whole scene, calculated at once to raise the mind to the great Artificer. What an idea such a sight gives man of the omnipotence, goodness, and restraining power of God. Well may the Christian say, Who is like unto our God? I felt reluctant to leave it, and can never forget its appearance. From our house it is often seen, like a continuation of splendid fireworks, illuminating the whole sky. When about two miles from it the natives climbed a large banyan tree, and from a part about 50 feet high, they brought us two bottles of excellent water, and said it always contained a large supply. They were exceedingly superstitious about the volcano and much afraid, and told me many of their superstitious traditions regarding it. They were dull, and spoke little when going, but when returning they were singing and talkative, because, they said, they feared we would all be killed, but now the danger was past.

*Other two narrow escapes.*—On the 13th September Mr. Matheson's boat came round for his goods, when Miaki's men took possession of it by force, and set sail for a distant part of this island. I had made a sail for his canoe on condition that he would get me coral to make lime to plaster my house, and the day before the *John Williams* left he came and entreated me to lend him the sail, and assured me he would return it that night, and let it remain in my house till he got the coral; but he did not return it, nor will he let us get coral. Because I asked if his present conduct agreed with his promises in the *John Williams* a few days before, he ran and got his huge club and two kawases, declaring he would kill me dead like the Erronangans. In the excitement of the moment I ran a few steps from him, but knowing that this would likely have led to certain death (for, impelled by fiendish fury, he was approaching me rapidly), I turned and walked up to him, saying, "Miaki, if you kill me Jehovah will surely punish you. O Lord! have mercy on me." He then threw his kawases and sprang at me with his club, but I leapt into his arms, and, with my head to his breast, escaped the first blow, and God enabled me to keep to him, so that he could not strike me, while I reasoned and struggled with him till his wrath abated; and being intimidated by the shrieks of a crowd of women, who were pleading for me, and undoubtedly being awed by the fear of God, he turned from me a few steps, but again ran at me, when the women gave a scream and instantly blocked up the path, which had a fence on both sides, and though his great club was raised over their heads, while he struck and tore at them, they clung together, imploring him not to kill me, and entreating me to run. But I could not run, and said, "Unless Miaki repents, God will surely punish him for his deceit and wicked conduct," when he left, and I got safe home. I wrote a note to Captain Anderson, whose vessel was at anchor in the bay, telling him of my danger, and that Mr. Matheson was in need of food; and as he had just told me his boats were going there to trade, I was sure Mr. M. would be glad to pay him to take a little round, as the Tanese had stolen his boat. But he took no notice of my letter, but set sail next morning at daylight. Perhaps he durst not come ashore, for while we were holding our peace-meeting here a few days before in the *John Williams*, Captain Anderson had a quarrel with the natives of Wagusi, and he told me his mate shot a man for stealing a musket; but two Tana women on board his vessel informed our people that he had stolen them, the two women who were sent to trade with his boat, and when their friends offered to rescue them they shot two men, and kept firing at the others till they were out of reach. One of the men who was shot and cut to pieces by the axes of the captain's (Murray) men in his boat was a chief sitting in his boat as a hostage while his people were trading. When the Belgium gentlemen were here, a Hobartown whaler called here, had a white woman on board, and purchased and took away three Tana women, and decoyed twelve young men to sleep on board all night, who found themselves far out at sea next morning. These young men were very friendly, and assisted to protect me on the 18th of July; therefore, I feel sorry at their loss. One of them had lived at our house for about five weeks before leaving. This makes twenty-one native females purchased and taken from