

splendid eyes, large and sparkling, having the fire and dark hue of the Indian; their complexions are of the richest deep brown, some approaching copper colour; and the skin so clear, that the blood can be seen mantling in their cheeks. Old age seems to transmute all their charms into ugliness, for the few aged persons I saw were mostly hideous. At night we were delighted in viewing the natives fishing by torch-light: in the frail canoes I have before noticed brands composed of the fibrous husk of the cocoa-nut emitted a lurid glare, and being in great numbers and constant motion imparted a Salvator-Rosa-like effect to the scene; the softened gleam upon the shore was very beautiful, throwing up the more prominent objects, whose broad shadows, rendered deeper and more perfect by the blaze, mingled with and were lost in the gloom of the background.

It was intended that in accordance with our instructions we should have met H. M. S. "Herald," which was to co-operate with us, at Panama, but the plan of our route having been changed we had not visited that port, and hoped to have found her here; in this expectation we were, however, disappointed; and after obtaining a plentiful supply of tropical fruits and vegetables, proceeded alone on the 25th, trusting to fall in with her in Kötzebue Sound.