

boat, giving us to understand that they wished to go with us. This was just what we wanted, and we felt as if God had answered our prayers. We were soon on board with our new friends who were much astonished with all they saw. At first they showed much fear, and often pointed to their own island, as if they wished to return. In a few days however their confidence was won and they became favorites with all on board. We left them with the missionaries on Maro, where they will remain till the vessel makes the next voyage. They will then go home accompanied by teachers who we hope will be able to land on their island.

MALLICOLO.

Sept. 20th. This morning we were close in to Mallicolo which lies to the west of Ambrym, 15 or 20 miles distant. There are two harbours at the south end of the island, but no anchorage where we touched. We hove to as near the shore as it was safe to venture, and allowed the ship to drift slowly along the side of the island. A number of canoes came off to us bringing spears, clubs, ornaments &c., for sale, which were purchased with hatchets, looking glasses, and strips of calico. Our visitors uniformly left us when the ship seemed to reach the boundary of their district and were then succeeded by others. Between 60 and 70 canoes came off to us in the course of the day. The natives appeared to be an unsuspecting and inoffensive people. There were several women and children in the canoes. Cook describes those whom he saw as ugly and ape like in their appearance. But the practise of deforming the head in infancy exists in the part of the island visited by him. There was nothing repulsive about those whom we saw. We endeavoured to get some of the natives to accompany us, but they either did not understand or had not sufficient confidence in us. We gave them a number of presents however, and I have no doubt left a good impression. Had we been able to anchor it is probable that we would have succeeded in our object. Mallicolo is the next largest island on the group. It is 17 leagues long and of considerable width. A ridge of mountains runs along the centre of the island. It is covered with vegetation, and has a fertile appearance. There were several small islands along the shore which we passed. The men wear almost nothing in the shape of covering, and little more can be said of the women. In stature the natives are about middle size and rather mild in appearance. The spears which we bought were pointed with human bones and smeared with poison which would indicate if we had no other evidence, that this important island is still one of the habitations of cruelty.

ESPIRITO SANTO.

Sept. 21. This island lies to the north of Mallicolo, and is separated from it by a strait 20 miles wide. We were off the island in the morning, and after a little searching found a large bay at the south west end of the island in which we anchored. This bay is safe from all winds except the west which is uncommon. The point of land which forms the south side of the bay is called Cape Lisburne. This island is the largest of the group. It is said to be about 70 miles long and 40 miles wide. From the sea it has a rugged and mountainous appearance, but it is fertile. The natives brought off many yams for sale. Of late years this island has been frequented by sandal wood vessels, but the trade is now on the decline, as the wood is scarce.

As soon as we came to anchor several canoes came off to us. They took us for traders, and asked if we wanted sandal wood. but we soon gave them to understand that we visited their island for a nobler object. Being told that there were three chiefs who rule the part of the island visited by us, we sent for them and explained as we best could the design of our visit. Some natives who had been on Aneiteum and knew me, were useful to us by telling what they saw there. The chiefs expressed their willingness to receive teachers, and promised that no injury should be done to them. Two Hervey Island teachers, Lameka and Vaitali and their wives were set apart for this large island, and also Taniela and his wife from Vato. We reserved the Vatiens for this island as it is reported to be unhealthy. Being natives of the group they are not likely to suffer from climate, and they may be valuable helps to the teachers.

We were much pleased with what we saw of the natives. They do not differ much in appearance from those on the islands we had been visiting. They are not a large race but are in general well formed. There is much variety of com-