

could be more injurious to the Characters of any people, than this diabolical practice ascribed to this Society. There are in this, and the adjoining islands, persons of a middle rank between the manahounas, or the yeomen, and the caroes, who having no concern in the government, nor any distinct property in the islands, associate together for their own amusement, and the entertainment of the public. These travel from place to place, and from island to island in companies, not unlike those of the strolling players in England, only that they perform without pay; but that they cohabit indiscriminately, one with another, so many men with so many women in common, is no otherwise true, than may be suspected among the itinerant companies just mentioned; nor are they under any other restraints from marrying, than that the society admits of no marriages among themselves, nor of any married people to be of their society, it being a rule with them never to be encumbered with children; if therefore it should happen, that issue should prove to be the consequence of a casual amour, there is no alternative, the mother must either quit the society, or some how or other dispose of the child, which some of them do there, as many unfortunate girls do here, by secretly making away with them, to avoid infamy, it being equally disgraceful there to be found with child, while members of the society of Arrecoys, as it is for women here to be found without husbands. Oedidee, who made the voyage to the southward with Captain Cook, in his former expedition to discover a southern continent, came to pay his respects to his patron and friend. He brought with him a wife whom he had lately married, which discredits the notion that was adopted by former voyagers, that those who belonged to the society of Arrecoys were sworn to celibacy. Either this man must have been an impostor, or the fact just mentioned cannot be true.