

and Omai went on board the other. As soon as they had got sufficient sea-room, they faced, advanced, and retreated by turns, as quick as their rowers could paddle. In the mean time, the warriors on the stages flourished their weapons, and played a variety of antics, which could answer no other purpose than that of rousing their passions, to prepare them for the onset. Otoo stood by the side of one stage, giving the necessary orders, when to advance, and when to retreat. Great judgment, and a very quick eye, seemed requisite in this department, to seize every advantage, and to avoid every disadvantage. At length, after several times advancing to, and retreating from each other, the two canoes closed, stage to stage; and after a severe, though short conflict, all the troops on Otoo's stage were supposed to be killed, and Omai and his associates boarded them, when instantly Otoo, and all the paddlers in his canoe, leaped into the sea, as if reduced to the necessity of preserving their lives by swimming.

According to Omai's information, their naval engagements are not always conducted in this manner. They sometimes lash the two vessels together, head to head, and fight till all the warriors on one side or the other are killed. But this close combat is never practised, except when the contending parties are determined to conquer or die. Indeed, one or the other must infallibly happen;