

Mr. Gore was sent on shore, in order to shoot some birds that might serve for food. He had scarcely reached them, when about twenty natives appeared, in two large canoes; upon which he returned to the ships, and they followed him. They were unwilling, however, to venture along-side, but kept at a little distance, shouting aloud, and clapping and extending their arms alternately. They then began a kind of song, much after the manner of the inhabitants of King George's or Nootka Sound. Their heads were strewed with feathers, and one of them held out a white garment, which we supposed was intended as a token of friendship; while another, for near a quarter of an hour, stood up in the canoe, entirely naked, with his arms extended like a cross, and motionless. Though we returned their signs of amity, and endeavoured, by the most expressive gestures, to encourage them to come along-side, we were unable to prevail upon them. Though some of our people repeated several of the most common words of the language of Nootka, they did not appear to understand them. After they had received some presents that were thrown to them, they retired towards the shore, intimating, by signs, that they would pay us another visit the next morning. Two of them, however, came off to us in the night, each in a small canoe; hoping, perhaps, that they might find us all asleep, and might have an opportunity of pilfering; for they went away as soon as they perceived themselves discovered.

We now got up our anchors and made sail, and soon discovered an excellent bay or harbour; but the weather proving very tempestuous, we were obliged to drop our anchors much sooner than we intended. During our stay here, the natives behaved with great insolence, attempting to steal our boats, and even to plunder the Discovery. As we were on the point of weighing anchor, in order to proceed farther up the bay, the wind began to blow as violent as before, and was attended with rain; inasmuch that we were obliged to bear away the cable again, and lie fast. In the evening, perceiving the gale did not abate, and thinking that it might be some time before an opportunity of getting higher up presented itself, the Commodore was determined to heel the ship in our present station; and, with that view, caused her to be moored with a kedge-anchor and hawser. One of the sailors on heaving the anchor out of the boat, was carried overboard by the buoy-rope, and accompanied the anchor to the bottom. In this very hazardous situation, he had sufficient presence of mind to disengage himself, and come up to the surface of the water, where he was immediately taken up, with a dangerous fracture in one of his legs. Early the following morning, we heeled the ship in order to stop the leak, which, on ripping off the sheathing, was found to be in the beams. While the carpenters were employed in this business, others of our people filled the water casks at a stream not far from our station. The wind had by this time, considerably abated; but the weather was hazy, with rain.