

about us than our new visitors, would not suffer them to have any dealings with us. It was evident, indeed, that the neighbouring inhabitants engrossed us entirely to themselves; and that they carried on a traffic with more distant tribes, in those articles they had received from us; for they frequently disappeared for four or five days together, and returned with fresh cargoes of curiosities and skins.

Such of the natives as visited us daily, were the most beneficial to us; for, after disposing of their trifles, they employed themselves in fishing, and we always partook of what they caught. We also procured from them a considerable quantity of good animal oil, which they brought to us in bladders—Some, indeed, attempted to cheat us, by mixing water with the oil; and once or twice they so far imposed upon us, as to fill their bladders with water only. But, it was better for us to wink at these impositions, than suffer them to produce a quarrel.

Most of our heavy work being now finished, the Commodore set out next morning to survey the Sound; and, going first to the west point, he discovered a large village, and before it a very snug harbour, with from nine to four fathoms water.

The inhabitants of this village, who were numerous, many of whom the Commodore was no stranger to, received him with great courtesy, every one pressing him to enter his apartment; for several families have habitations under the same roof.—He politely accepted the invitations, and the hospitable friends whom he visited, testified every mark of civility and respect.

On the 21st, the mizen mast was got in and rigged, and the carpenters ordered to make a new fore top mast, to replace that which had been carried away.

The 23d, 24th, and 25th of April, were employed in preparing to put to sea; the sails were bent; the observations and other articles removed from the shore; and both ships put into a proper condition for sailing.

Thus prepared, we intended to have put to sea on the morning of the 26th, but having both wind and tide against us, we were under a necessity of waiting till noon; when a calm succeeded the south west wind, and the tide at the same time turning in our favour, we towed the ships out of the cove. We had variable airs and calms till about four in the afternoon, when a breeze sprung up, attended with thick hazy weather.

The mercury in the barometer sunk uncommonly low, and we had every appearance of an approaching storm from the southward. In this situation Captain Cook hesitated for a short time (as night was then approaching) whether he should sail immediately, or stay till the next morning. But his anxiety to proceed upon the voyage, and the fear of losing so good an opportunity of getting out of the Sound, operated more strongly upon his mind than the apprehension of danger, and he resolved to put to sea.