

heathen practices, and resisting all the efforts of the missionaries to change their evil ways, the king, who was a zealous convert about this time, sought the assistance of the captain of an English man-of-war then in port to chastise these idolaters, and so help convert them by the aid of the sword." Captain Croker landed; taking two field-pieces with him and a number of blue-jackets and marines. The village is about five miles from the anchorage, and it seems that on their arrival they found that the natives had fortified it with an earth embankment. The assault was led by Captain Croker, it is said, with sword in one hand and Bible in the other. However, very early in the engagement, he received a mortal wound from an arrow, several of his followers were killed or wounded, and the cannon captured; the English retreating, without at all assisting the mission. The old king remembers all this, and has caused the monument to be erected.

These islands are all of coral formation, and surrounded with extensive reefs extending away to the northward. The luxuriance of the foliage is not surpassed anywhere within the Tropics. Although but little attention seems to be given to cultivation, yams, sweet potato, banana, cocoa-nut, bread-fruit, sugar-cane, shaddock, and limes are produced plentifully, and find a ready sale with whale-ships and other vessels visiting the port.