

pleted their engagements, were embarked for passage to their homes on this island, which was reported to be one of the most savage of the group. While they were on board, they were quiet and tractable, and relished their allowance of provisions greatly. Boats left the ship, taking all those desirous of visiting the shore, and some of the natives with them, as an introduction. As the land was approached, a tolerably fine beach was observed, backed with mountainous land covered with luxuriant vegetation. Our passengers were much alarmed at the idea of not being able to land exactly at their own part of the island, and it was with great difficulty that the boats found a convenient place. When a landing was at length effected, a large number of natives hove in sight: amongst them were two bearing palm-branches, supposed to indicate their friendly intentions, but the rest of the crowd had clubs, spears, bows, and arrows. They had none of their women or children with them, and that is not usually a good sign. The natives are very dark, almost approaching to black, and are considered as belonging to the Papuan race. They are described as hostile and treacherous in all their intercourse with the white man; therefore, although their manners seemed favourable, they were not to be trusted, and it was not considered advisable to ramble beyond the beach, or out of sight of the boats and the armed crew. In consequence, none of the villages or houses