

by extensive coral reefs, and affording a convenient landing. The whole island was clad in a thick forest of tropical vegetation. Having reached a convenient anchorage (which was afterwards named Nares Harbour), the beautiful view before us, and the smoke rising from the native huts between the trees completed a perfect landscape.

Next morning at sunrise we beheld a repetition of the scene witnessed in Humboldt Bay. The ship was surrounded with natives, all eager to trade, and the noise made by their combined voices was deafening. The principle articles of exchange were tortoise-shell spears, stone knives, axes, earrings, bracelets, ornaments worn from the nose, circular plates of white shell, some finely carved bowls, and models of canoes, &c. Hoop-iron and trade-gear (small hatchets, calico, beads, and knives) formed the medium of exchange. To describe the scene alongside is altogether impossible. We soon discovered that there would be no difficulty in establishing a good understanding with these people, and almost immediately a landing was effected, all being armed so as to be on the guard against any treachery; for these islanders are of the same race as those inhabiting the Solomon group, and travellers speak of them as hostile and treacherous. Of their being cannibals, there can be no doubt; so at our first intercourse great caution was certainly necessary. After a while, however, when we had got somewhat familiar, and numerous