

pleased without fear of giving offence; picking our way amongst the numerous parties that were seated about, interchanging jokes and compliments, or squatting down amongst a lot of lively native girls on their outspread mats, and carrying on a broken sort of conversation with them—all generally so good-humoured and merry that they could not fail to win one's esteem.

All appeared thoroughly to enjoy the music, and to regret when the programme came to an end with the "Marseillaise;" mats, bundles, and babies were gathered up, and the crowd, in a short time, dispersed to their various homes.

A levée was held at the palace, at which the officers of the *Challenger* were presented to royalty in due form. And (on the 1st October) a return visit was made by the Queen; on which occasion the opportunity was taken to entertain her Majesty at a ball on board. The quarter-deck was prettily decorated with flags, trophies, and flowers; and as there were several princes and princesses present, together with the French Governor and staff, the party was a gay and merry one.

During our stay here excursions were planned to various parts of the island; amongst them, that made to Point Venus had a double interest attached to it. It was on this promontory that Captain Cook first made the astronomical observations by which he determined the correct position of the island, and, in