

The galley had been sent off, and was to have returned for us after the men had got their supper, and one of the cutters had come on shore for the other officers. The darkness falls in these latitudes like a curtain, and it was getting dark when we reached the beach. The captain had to look after the embarkation of the party, as the cutter was a bulky boat not well suited for surf work, and had to lie out a little way. We all went off in the cutter, instead of waiting for the galley, and had simply to watch for a favorable moment and make a rush for it up to the middle. We caught only one light breaker, and were soon all floundering in the boat, amidst a storm of laughter.

Early next morning, when all our preparations were completed and our working-parties ready to land, Captain Nares announced that the governor had changed his mind, and did not wish to have the island examined. The captain went ashore to expostulate, and as we hoped that the change might have arisen from a misunderstanding which might be removed, boats went off with several exploring parties, the boats to lie off until one or other of two signals should be made from the ship—either the fore-royal shaken out, in which case all was to proceed as had been previously arranged; or the main-royal shaken out, when all the boats were to return to the ship. Time wore on. My *rôle* for the day was to take the steam-pinnace and dredge in moderate water off the coast. As the governor could not well object to that, I was not to be interfered with in any case, so I only waited to get a derrick fitted in lieu of one which had been damaged. About half-past ten the main-royal was shaken out, and the general recall for boats hoisted.

The pinnace had just started, and we ran back to hear the news. The governor was courteous, but obdurate. We might land; he would give us horses and guides, every possible accommodation; we might even shoot pigeons, but we must do no scientific work. Captain Nares asked, if we saw a butterfly,