

uneasy, at 7 A.M. the anchor was weighed and the ship steered in for a small cove under Point Caillié. At the first movement of the screw the natives in the canoes seized their weapons, and it was certainly thought for an instant that the officers on the bridge were going to be favoured with a flight of arrows. Much relief was felt when they were seen pointing to the propeller, which they evidently took at first to be a marine monster of some kind or other. Having satisfied themselves, however, that it was machinery connected in some way with the ship, they put their weapons down and resumed paddling alongside, their canoes forming a wide trailing line as they accompanied the ship. There were in all sixty-seven canoes present, and this was the greatest number seen, a few of them contained five natives, some four, some three, and some only two. In fifty canoes on one side of the vessel there were one hundred and forty-eight natives, or about an average of three to a canoe; in all, therefore, there must have been two hundred natives. From time to time the shout which was heard the night before was raised. When heard close by, it was found to commence with a short quick "wäh wäh," followed by a long "ōh ōh ōh." Some few natives had perforated Conch shells, both a *Triton* perforated on the side of one of the upper whorls, and a large conical *Strombus* perforated at the apex of the spire. They blew these shells, making a booming sound which mingled with the shouts. They evidently prize these trumpet shells highly, and would not part with them, perhaps from the same motives that prevent them parting with their flutes, as described by the officers of the "Etna."¹

When the ship moved the scene was very fine. In front were the Cyclops Mountains rising to heights of 6000 feet, at the eastern base of which was a sheltered cove with one or two small islets in it, all lit up by the rising sun behind, whilst around were a crowd of canoes filled with naked savages ornamented with frizzled hair, tusks through the septa of their noses, and blackened faces; in the centre was the Challenger, steaming slowly along in search of a secure anchorage, and rolling lazily to the heavy swell. As the ship steamed towards the shore the water grew deeper instead of shallower, and finally it became necessary to anchor in 36 fathoms, with the right extremity of Point Caillié N. 82° E., Observation Islet S., and an island with a village on it S. 43° W. Here the vessel was well protected from the swell.

Many of the natives made a sign of drinking, and pointed to a part of the bay where water was to be procured, evidently thinking that the ship required water. This shows that they are more or less accustomed to ships watering here, and the fact that the utmost endeavours failed to induce any of the natives to come on board the ship, and their extreme caution in their first approach, seemed to show that they must have been frightened or maltreated in some way by recent visitors to the bay. When the Dutch vessel of war "Etna" came into the harbour in 1858, the natives clambered on board before the cable had run out.

¹ Neu Guinea und seine Bewohner, Otto Finsch, p. 144.