

and threw down a gaudy handkerchief. It was at once fished out of the water with a four-pronged fish-spear, and examined by the glow of the fire-stick, and then another canoe which was approaching, and which contained four natives, was shouted to in the most excited language, expressive evidently of satisfaction.

Sigor being supposed to mean "tobacco," a cigar was let down with a line and immediately taken and lighted, and more were shouted for, and two cocoanuts neatly husked and tied together with a part of the husk left attached for the purpose, as in the many islands visited by us, were fastened to the line, to be drawn up in exchange.

Then by cries of "sigor!" which acted as a loadstone, the canoes were drawn up opposite the gangway, and every attempt was made from the bottom of the ladder to invite the natives on board, but without success; nor would they approach near enough to receive presents from the hand, evidently fearing a trap; but they took a number of cigars, receiving them two at a time, stuck between the prongs of a long fish-spear. The placing of the cigars between the jagged points of the spear was rather trying work, for the ship was rolling somewhat, and the spear was thus prodded to and fro.

Another gaudy handkerchief being given to the boat which had received one already, it was passed over to the other boat at once, either according to some agreement as to division of spoil, or because perhaps the occupant of the boat was a chief. The use of ships' biscuit was not understood. One native made signs that he wanted a gun, by pretending to load his bow from some implement picked up from the bottom of his canoe to represent a powder flask, then ramming down in pantomime, drawing the bow as if shooting, and saying "boom."

The natives seemed frightened to some little extent by a "blue light," and shoved off a bit, shouting sometimes as it was lit. At last they left for the shore, using a word very like "to-morrow." At one time they commenced a sort of song in their canoe, as they lay off the ship hesitating to approach.

The canoes hung about the ship nearly all night, and in the morning the ship was surrounded by them, and a brisk barter commenced at daylight. At about 7.30 the ship was moved nearer to the north-west shore of the bay, and to the dwellings of the natives. The canoes paddled alongside, and formed a wide trailing line as they accompanied the ship.

There were then 67 canoes in all present, and this was the greatest number that was seen. Some few of them contained five natives, some four, some three, some only two. In 50