

canoes on one side of the vessel there were 148 natives, or about an average of three to a canoe. In all, therefore, there must have been 200 natives.

-From time to time the shout which was heard the night before was raised. When heard close by, it is found to commence with a short quick "Wäh Wäh öh öh öh." Some few natives had perforated Conch shells, both a *Triton*, and a large conical *Strombus* perforated at the apex of the spire, not on the side of one of the upper whorls, as in the case of the *Triton*. These shells they blew, making a booming sound which mingled with the shouts.

The natives 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."*

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 was out.

As soon as the ship anchored again, the natives crowded round, and barter recommenced most briskly, being carried on through the main deck ports, the natives passing up their weapons and ornaments stuck between the points of four-pronged spears, and receiving in return the price in the same manner.

The constant cry of the natives was "sigor, sigor!" often repeated (sīgōr sīgōr, slowly, sīgōr sīgōr sīgōr, quickly). "Sigor" was found to mean iron; this and "soth," which means more, were the only words of the language gathered. Iron tub-hoop, broken into six or eight-inch lengths, was the commonest article of barter, but most prized were small trade hatchets, for which the natives parted with anything they had.

The iron, wherewith to replace the stone blades of their own hatchets, and the miserable ready-made trade hatchets, are to them the most valuable property possible, since they lessen the toil of clearing the rough land for cultivation, and of canoe and house building, which with the stone implements alone to work with, must be arduous indeed.

* "Neu Guinea und seine Bewohner." Otto Finsch, S. 144.