

the Isle of France, of what Commodore Hunter had seen, and he in consequence visited the Admiralty Islands with his two ships, arriving off the islands in July, 1792. He visited the outlying islands of Jesus Maria and La Vandola lying to the eastward, and then coasted along the northern shore of the main island to the same spot as that visited by the "Challenger." He communicated with the natives by bartering with them from his ships and from boats, but seeing no trace of any European relics amongst them, he concluded that Commodore Hunter had been mistaken in the manner already described, and set sail without effecting a landing. Two separate accounts were published of Dentrecasteaux's cruise, one by himself, edited by Mr. Rossel, the other by M. Labillardière. Both contain very interesting information concerning the Admiralty Islanders, the account by Labillardière being most complete in this respect, and accompanied by large plates of natives and weapons, and a view of Dentrecasteaux Island.

In 1843 the islands were visited by the American clipper "Margaret Oakley," Captain Morrell. The crew of this ship landed at many points on the coast of the main island, which according to Jacobs's account is called "Marso" by the natives.

They also visited many of the small outlying islands. Jacobs's account* is full of interesting details, but evidently not entirely trustworthy. It will be referred to in the sequel. There is no account extant of the landing of any other Europeans on the Admiralty Islands before the visit of the "Challenger." The well-known explorer Miklucho Maclay has paid a lengthened visit to the islands since our departure.

As the ship approached the anchorage canoes came off through openings in the reef to the vessel, though a stiff breeze was blowing, the natives being evidently in great excitement and eager to reach the ship. Paddles were waved to show friendship, and various articles of barter exhibited to tempt us. The constant cry was "laban, laban!" which sounded to us at first like "tabac, tabac," but which we afterwards found out to be, like the Humboldt Bay "sigor," the word for iron. Iron was the wealth they coveted.

Having seen the ship securely anchored, the chief ordered all the canoes away, and we were left alone during the night. In the morning trade went on briskly, the canoes crowding round the ship, and the natives handing their weapons and ornaments through the main deck ports. The barter we gave in exchange principally was ordinary hoop iron broken up into

* "Scenes, Incidents and Adventures in the Pacific Ocean," etc., pp. 164 to 182. By T. J. Jacobs. New York, Harper & Bros., 1844.