

the direction of New Guinea, having knowledge of the place. Hence he thought that they visited the place to trade. I think, however, that he must have been mistaken. The Admiralty Islanders could never make a stand against a race armed with bows; they would be cut off at once; and had they once seen bows and arrows they would surely have adopted them. It is true that the Australians have not done so at Cape York, though the Murray Islanders come to trade there and bring bows and arrows with them, but then they are far lower in intellect, and have the throwing stick. Many other circumstances concur against the above hypothesis.

The Islanders were anxious to trade with us to the very last, and followed the ship as she left the anchorage, with that intent. They were in a highly excited state, especially at first, and a man from whom I bought the first obsidian-headed spears I procured, fairly trembled with excitement as I handed him two pieces of tub-hoop. The natives have no metals of their own, excepting the ore of manganese, with which they blacken their bodies. This ore they call "laban," and they have adopted the same term for iron. They appear to be quite unable to work iron, since they refused any pieces not of a form immediately applicable to use. They preferred a small piece of hoop iron to a conical mass weighing several pounds.

The natives are quieter than the Humboldt Bay men. There was comparatively little noise when their canoes were alongside. There was no combined shouting. The natives are rapacious and greedy, and very jealous of one another. The chief showed all these traits in the highest degree. They were ready enough to thieve, but not so constantly on the look-out for plunder as the Humboldt Bay Papuans.

The men showed no great astonishment at matches or a burning-glass, apparently understanding the latter, and motioning that the operator should wait until the sun came from behind a cloud. Looking-glasses were not at all understood. They were tried in all positions, as ornaments on the head and breast, for example. The men seemed to see no advantage in seeing their faces in them. In Labillardière's time they broke them to look for the picture, or man inside. Tobacco and pipes were not understood. Biscuit was eagerly taken and eaten. Great wonder was expressed at the whiteness of our legs and chests by the natives, and the women at Dentrecasteaux Island crowded with great curiosity and astonishment to look at a white arm or chest. The natives, no doubt, thought that our hands and faces were only painted white, and took our negroes on board for men who had not got the paint on.