

went armed. The natives were much frightened and astonished at first at the sound of a gun. One of my guides, when I was shooting birds, stopped his ears at first, and bent down trembling every time that I fired. The natives were, however, not much scared by our firing our ship's guns and rockets at night, but came off next day to the ship to trade as if nothing had happened.

I obtained about 55 words and the numerals of the islands, and have published the results elsewhere in a paper, reference to which will be found at the end of this chapter; a large part is here reprinted. The difficulty of obtaining correct vocabularies from savages, of whose language the investigator is entirely ignorant, is well known, and has been commented on by many writers on anthropology and philology. I was well aware of these difficulties, and as I used great caution, I believe that the words which I obtained are mostly correct.

I met with the following special difficulties with the Admiralty Islanders in obtaining words from them. The natives seemed always ready enough to give the names of particular birds which had been shot, as of two kinds of Pigeons and a Parrot, or of a Cuscus, Hermit-crab, or any such object which they considered was strange and novel to the inquirer, and one for which, as they thought, he wished to learn a name; but immediately they were asked for the word for the nose, or arm, or any such object common to the inquirer and themselves, they seemed to grow puzzled and suspicious, and to wonder why one could want to know the name of a thing for which one must have a name already. Some men were suspicious from the first, and refused sullenly to give any words at all, and prevented others from giving any. Some would give one or two only, and then refuse further information, whilst I came across two who gave me at least ten words each, quickly one after another, but then, like the rest, failed me.

I got a few natives together round some dead birds which I had shot, and gathered small stones and set them to count. The numerals are interesting, because those for 8 and 9 are expressed as 10 minus 2, and 10 minus 1.* In the process of learning the art of counting, a term for the numeral 10 has been

* Admiralty Island Numerals. 1, Sip. 2, Huap. 3, Taro. 4, Vavu. 5, Lima. 6, Wono. 7, Hetarop. 8, Anda Huap. 9, Anda Sip. 10, Sangop. Jacobs, *l.c.*, p. 172, gives, Sec. Maruer. Tollo. Ear. Leme. Ouno. Andrutollo. Andruruer. Andru-see. Songule. Thus, according to him, the numeral for 7 is formed in the same manner as that for 8 and 9. His numerals are no doubt from a different part of the Admiralty Group, and the method of spelling adopted by him is very different. They still correspond closely with those obtained by me.