

a separate chief, and quite independent of each other. The chief's power seemed to depend on his fighting qualities. The chief of Wild Island had considerable power. He ordered all the canoes away from the ship on the first evening of our arrival, on our anchoring. He took articles away from men to whom they were given, and made arrangements for each man of a party getting a hatchet. He never paddled himself, and he pushed canoes out of the way when approaching the ship. He, however, clamoured with the rest for presents and trade. He had no ceremonious respect paid to him at all.

The natives seemed friendly enough, but they were of course excessively excited at our presence. No doubt they were afraid of us. When a party, which landed with Captain Thomson on Dentrecaesteaux Island, was putting off from shore in a small boat to reach the pinnacle, the inhabitants seemed possibly to be meditating an attack, for they suddenly produced their lances and showed intense excitement; no doubt the sight of a sack full of trade articles in the boat was almost too tempting for them.

We were usually on very good terms with them. On one occasion Mr. R. Richards, Paymaster of the "Challenger," accompanied a number of natives in the chief's canoe, which was guiding a party to Pigeon Island. He took down the names of the whole crew.

The natives were very much frightened at some Goats which were offered to them by Captain Thomson, and refused to let them be landed on the inhabited islands. They were very much scared also by a wooden jointed toy Snake which I showed them swaying to and fro; and evidently must be acquainted with poisonous snakes, as they made signs for me to kill the thing or it would injure me. A squeaking Doll, which kicked its legs and arms about, frightened the chief Oto very much, and he and others made signs at once to have the thing put out of their sight.

With regard to the population of the islands, I estimated that the population of Wild Island was about 400 or 500, and that of Dentrecaesteaux Island about 250 or 300. This estimate for these two small northern outliers has unfortunately been mistaken \* for an estimate of the population of the entire group, which may, perhaps, be conjectured to amount to about as many natives for the same range of coast line all round the main island. Jacobs describes the entire range of outlying islands and part of the coast of the main island as inhabited, and in places densely so.

\* Behm und Wagner. "Die Bevölkerung der Erde," V. Petermann Mittheilungen, 1878, s. 48.