

investigations of the Dutch commission on board the ship "Etna," better known than those of most savages.¹

Directly the ship was anchored, the boats were hoisted out and preparations made to survey the bay and explore the country, but although the natives allowed the officers sent to obtain astronomical observations to land on a small uninhabited island, they used threatening gestures towards the other boats, pointing their arrows against the breasts of the naturalists and officers; consequently the exploring and surveying parties returned for orders.

This unwillingness on the part of the natives to allow the parties to land and explore the country rendered it necessary either to pay respect to their wishes, or to proceed in the investigations at the risk of an embroilment with them. Much as it was wished to explore a part of the world so little known as is the district of New Guinea around Humboldt Bay, it was considered unjustifiable to use force for the purpose, or even to land any explorers where a momentary impulse on the part of a savage might possibly lead to the sacrifice of many lives. Conciliation was thus the only resource left, and the boats were kept on board whilst endeavours were made to make friends with the people in the canoes surrounding the ship. All the efforts, however, failed to induce even one of the men to come on board, and the conclusion was reluctantly come to that it would require some days' intercourse with them before they could be taught that the object of the Expedition in visiting their settlement was a friendly one. There was no doubt that by sacrificing a week or ten days in conciliation almost anything might have been done with these people, but devoting so much time to this purpose was out of the question, so it was resolved to leave Humboldt Bay and proceed to the Admiralty Islands, where it was hoped that the intercourse with the natives might be more fortunate.

Before hoisting in the boats the pinnace proceeded towards one of the villages with Captain Thomson, Professor Thomson, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Wild, in order to allow Mr. Wild to make a sketch of the village (see fig. 233). As the pinnace approached the platform on which the houses were built, four or five natives presented themselves with bows and arrows in hand. One of them drew his bow and pointed his arrow towards the pinnace, but offered both immediately for "sigor." When the bow of the pinnace was placed alongside the scaffolding on which the pile-dwellings stand one of the bluejackets got on to it. This was, however, strongly objected to by the natives, who motioned him back to the boat. After a short time one of the natives was induced to take Mr. Murray on shore in his canoe, and Professor Thomson and Captain Thomson followed shortly after in a second canoe. The rock at the point where the party landed was a limestone weathered at the surface into sharp, jagged points, round which the roots of the trees were twined in a most extraordinary manner. Two birds (*Tricho-*

¹ Nieu Guinea Ethnogr. en Natuurkundig onderzoek in 1858 door een Nederl. Ind. Commissie, *Bijdragen tot de Taal Land en Volkenkunde van Nederlandsch Indie*, Deel v., Amsterdam, 1862. For Von Rosenberg's account of the visit, see *Nat. Tydsch. voor. Nederl. Indie*, Deel xxiv. p. 333 *et seq.*, Batavia, 1862.