

newspapers in trade freely as they did at the first, thinking them to be fine cloth, until rain had fallen. They soon took to making trade goods, shell hatchets, and models of canoes, to sell to the Expedition, and these were as badly made as the trade-gear given in exchange. They understood the rules of barter well, and, as in Labillardière's time, seemed anxious to pay their debts. They must trade with one another regularly. They pretended, with many expressive grimaces, to be unable to bend pieces of tortoiseshell which they offered for sale, and of the thickness (*i.e.*, fine quality) of which they wished to impress the purchaser. They often thus pretended to try ineffectually to bend very thin pieces, and fully entered into the joke when the buyers did the same with thin bits of hoop iron. They always required to see the hoop iron tested by bending before accepting it. They made signs that the ore of manganese which they use came in canoes from a distance eastwards. The native canoes are so seaworthy, and the natives so enterprising and fearless, that possibly articles may pass by barter from island to island over wide distances, even to New Hanover and New Britain.

The natives took all the hoop iron they could get from the ship, evidently receiving more than they could use, no doubt intending it for future barter. They were anxious to trade to the very last, and followed the ship to sea from the anchorage with that intent. They were in a highly excited state, especially at first, and the man from whom some of the first obsidian headed spears were procured fairly trembled with excitement as two pieces of hoop iron were handed to him. The natives have no metals of their own. They blacken their bodies with the ore of manganese, which they call "laban," and they have adopted the same term for iron. They appear unable to work iron at all, since they refused any pieces not of a form immediately applicable for use. They preferred a small piece of hoop iron to a conical mass of iron weighing several pounds.

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

The native guides who accompanied parties of explorers always went armed, and were much frightened and astonished at first at the sound of a gun. One of the guides, when birds were being shot, stopped his ears at first, and bent down trembling every time the gun went off. The natives were not, however, much scared when on one occasion the ships' guns and some rockets were fired at night, but came off next day to the ship to trade as if nothing had happened.

The natives 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, for example, as ornaments on the head and breast, but the men seemed