

by some dozen natives, who were resolute in preventing them from going beyond the water's edge; in other respects, they were disposed to be quite friendly.

The chief was an old man, and was induced to venture off towards the boat. One of the gentleman swam to those on shore; his reception was similar to that met with at the other islands: rubbing noses, kissing, and shaking of hands. Whenever he attempted to lay his hands on them, they started back, but were continually pawing and whining over him, making a kind of purring noise, not unlike that by which we propitiate or soothe the feelings or doubtful temper of some beast. They presented them with mats made of the pandanus-leaf, and also pieces of worn-out tapa, in return for many articles received, but would not suffer our people to put their feet upon dry ground, and when it was attempted, kept shoving them gently into the water.

The naturalists in the afternoon endeavoured to effect a landing at another place, out of sight of the natives, and succeeded. Mr. Brackenridge, on landing the second time, ran to the thicket, in order to lose no time in making collections, and was employed in gathering specimens, when two stout natives came running up, and made him understand, by very intelligible signs, that he must return to the boat; he pretended not to understand them, and endeavoured to proceed, but they went before him, and crossed their clubs, determined that he should go no farther. This caused him to laugh, in which the two natives joined. Finding there was no alternative, he took an oblique direction towards the boat, hoping by this means to enlarge his collection, which he succeeded in doing, while the natives, as he describes it, shouldered him out of the bush, and then towards the boat. The rest of the party having gone up to the huts, were at once seized and shoved down towards the boat, and into the surf, where they presented rather a ludicrous appearance, with the danger of drowning on the one side, and the natives on the other, who had them completely in their power, as they had neither arms nor any other means of defence. No harm, however, was done them, but the alarm incident to being threatened with spears. The only mishap met with was the loss, by one of the gentlemen, of a pair of spectacles, and a bruise or two from the coral, in their hurried retreat. As the surf was heavy, life-preservers were sent to those who could not swim; and after much detention, they reached the boat in safety. Had such a circumstance occurred at Clermont de Tonnerre, I am satisfied that most serious consequences would have resulted to us.

The superficial extent of the island of Otooho is about a square mile; it has no lagoon, is well covered with trees, and has fresh water.