

journey was continued, but it became necessary to stop before night, in order to build a shelter and make a fire. The latter was a difficult operation, where every thing was dripping with water. A hut was soon built of boughs of the banana, and thatched with its leaves. This, although not perfectly water-tight, served their purpose.

Their provisions fortunately held out. The natives after every meal had been careful to gather up all the remnants of food, and to wrap them in banana-leaves, by which all waste was avoided. They had been disappointed in obtaining any game, or any fish from the lake, both of which had been calculated upon. Mr. Peale saw nothing to shoot except a few birds, which were limited to four or five species, among which were swallows, tropic-birds, and small herons. In the lake, nothing was seen, although it had been represented as full of huge eels.

In the morning they rose early and began the descent, which was slow and fatiguing. They found the Ooaigarra very rapid, and were compelled to cross it frequently. In this their clothing was an encumbrance, for it remained wet, and was consequently heavy, while the natives, being naked, became dry in a few minutes after they emerged from the water. This toilsome descent occupied about four hours.

The first inhabited place they reached was Mirapahé, where the Ooaigarra runs into the sea. This is situated on the south side of the island, near the isthmus by which the two peninsulas are united.

Most of the party were now exhausted by fatigue, so that it was with some difficulty that any of them proceeded onwards to Ooariteeva, while a canoe was procured for those who were most overcome. Here they were hospitably received by Teharo, the son of the governor, Taati, who was himself absent, and took up their quarters at the house of the latter.

It was Wednesday evening, (by the account of the island,) and the natives were attending *lecture* in the church. Some of our gentlemen entered the congregation, and excited some sensation among the younger part of the assembly; far less, however, than would be evinced should a Tahitian enter one of our churches. The service was performed by a native, and consisted of praying, reading the Bible, and singing. The old people appeared very devout, and it was remarked that many of them were provided with spectacles, to enable them to follow the reader in their own books.

The reading was performed in a low monotonous tone; and the hymn was sung to an old English tune, with considerable taste, by the female part of the congregation.

The assembly consisted of about one hundred persons, three-fourths