

before sailing we became disgusted with seeing these large and noble-looking men passing from ship to ship, even including Paofai himself, soliciting foul linen to wash, and performing other services that were not in keeping with their rank. There is one, however, whom I must do justice to,—Hitoti. He maintained the character given him by Captain Beechey. I was much pleased with his whole deportment on his visit to me, and also when I saw him at his own house; he paid but two visits to the ship, and those within a day or two of our departure. That he did not visit the vessels before, was in order, as was supposed, to avoid the suspicion of trespassing on our liberality; he refused to accept any presents, and would only drink wine when requested, performing all the little courtesies of the table with grace and politeness.

On his visit to the Peacock, Lieutenant Emmons and Mr. Hale being the only gentlemen on board, received him with the attentions due his rank; when taking leave, he requested to know their names, which were given to him in English orthography; he at once took out his pencil, and with great readiness wrote them in the Tahitian dialect, as “Emaani” and “Helavi!”

Dr. Pickering and Mr. Couthouy being desirous of making another attempt to reach the top of Orohena, I willingly gave them the longest leave possible, to effect their object. They determined on attempting the ascent of the ridge leading directly up from Matavai Bay, as the one that had appeared to them most practicable. Lewis Sacket, who has already been spoken of, was again their interpreter; for guide, Mr. Wilson recommended an old man by the name of Vahaore, who was said to be the only person now living who had visited the top of Orohena; in this selection they were fortunate: Vahaore had been in his youth a great warrior, and his looks did not belie it; he was of the middle size, thin and sinewy, and with a fine eye; although past sixty years of age, he had scarcely a gray hair; his gait was firm and his carriage erect; he was constant in his attention to his duties, and rarely spoke unless relative to his business.

After the guides had been engaged, our gentlemen passed the night in a native house close by, ready to start at an early hour. At daylight, Vahaore and his son were provided with ropes; the reason the old man gave for taking his son was that he might be able to learn the way. They now set out, and by nine o'clock had reached a higher point than at any time on their former journey: this was about three thousand five hundred feet, and was attained after having walked six miles; when they had reached the altitude of fifteen hundred feet they no longer found any paths; on arriving at this point, they halted for some time to make collections of land-shells, and some very interesting