

Captain Hudson, who was much troubled with the illicit supply of spirits to his men, and was aware of the fact that the practice of vending it was contrary to law, endeavoured to discover the parties engaged in this traffic. He did this not only for the sake of his own crew, who, when questioned, stated that their intoxication was produced by gin, bought at the rate of three dollars a bottle, but to aid the natives in their exertions to prevent the infraction of their laws by the white residents. In pursuance of these objects, he called a meeting of the chiefs, and stated his complaint. They forthwith ordered search to be made for the offenders by the police, by which some of them were discovered and immediately fined. At the examination, however, the chiefs stated to Captain Hudson, with what truth I do not pretend to say, that seventy cases of *gin* had been landed by our own consul, from whom they believed that the retailers had obtained it, while the main stock being upon his premises, under the United States flag, was protected from search.

The repairs of the *Flying-Fish* were not completed before the 10th October, up to which time the *Peacock* was detained, not only in order that they might sail in company, but because her officers were still engaged in the survey of the harbours. In the interval of leisure which was thus afforded them, the crew of the *Peacock* asked and obtained permission to get up a theatrical entertainment, for the amusement of the natives and themselves. The council-house was placed at their disposal for the purpose by the native authorities. The play chosen was Schiller's "Robbers," the parts of which had been rehearsed at sea, in the afternoons—a task which had been the source of much amusement. An opportunity was now presented of getting it up well: the dresses having been prepared, the day was appointed, and when it arrived the piece was performed; the acting was thought by the officers very tolerable, and finally gave great delight to the natives. The latter, however, were somewhat disappointed in the early parts of the performance, for they had expected an exhibition of juggling, such as had been given for their entertainment on board of a French frigate. While under this feeling, they were heard to say there was too much "parau" (talk). After they began to enter into the spirit of the performance, the murders took their fancy; and they were diverted with the male representatives of the female characters.

A number of comic songs, which formed the relief of the more serious play, were exceedingly applauded; among others they laughed heartily at "Jim Crow" sung in character, and could not be persuaded that it was a fictitious character.