

It is to be regretted that the schools of manual labour have, for what reason I could not learn, been discontinued. Some of the natives who had been instructed in them evinced a knowledge of the trade of the carpenter, and furnished the ships with very good boards sawn by themselves.

The natives of Eimeo have an advantage over those of Tahiti in being free from the influence of evil example; many of them are industrious, and possess a proper feeling of the benefits they have derived from the missionaries, of whom they speak, whenever questioned, as friends.

Three of our crew having become enamoured of these islands, deserted while the Vincennes lay at Eimeo. They left the ship about ten o'clock at night, soon after which their absence was discovered, and parties sent out in every direction to intersect the roads and drive them to the hills. This was effected the following morning, and a large party of natives was employed to hunt them up. This task they speedily performed, and at last drove the deserters to one of the highest ridges, in full view of the ship. Here the runaways appeared at first disposed to make fight with stones; but when they saw the odds against them, and witnessed the alertness of the natives in leaping from cliff to cliff, they thought it best to give themselves up; which they did to three natives, naked except the maro, and armed respectively with a rusty sword, an old cutlass, and a piece of iron hoop. These bound their hands, and led them down to the shore, whence they were brought on board, where the three natives received the reward offered for their apprehension. The chase and capture was an amusing sight to those who watched the proceedings from the ship.

Eimeo has, if possible, a more broken surface than Tahiti, and is more thrown up into separate peaks; its scenery is wild even in comparison with that of Tahiti, and particularly upon the shores, where the mountains rise precipitously from the water, to the height of twenty-five hundred feet. The reef which surrounds the island is similar to that of Tahiti, and as we have seen to be the case there, no soundings are found on the outside of it. Black cellular lava abounds, and holes are found in its shattered ridges, among which is the noted one through which the god Oroo is said to have thrown his spear.

While we remained at Eimeo, I visited Papoa or Cook's Harbour, which lies to the east of that of Taloo. There is a marked resemblance between the two ports, except that the shores of Papoa are not quite as precipitous as those of Taloo, and the entrance of the former not as practicable.