

in writing, in relation to the natives, pointing out to them the necessity of watchfulness.

"You will observe the following instructions very particularly, and in no case depart from them, unless it is for the preservation of your party.

"1st. You will avoid landing any where on the main land or islands, unless the latter should be uninhabited.

"2d. Every precaution must be observed in treating with these natives, and no native must be suffered to come alongside or near your boats, without your boarding-nettings being up; all trading must be carried on over the stern of your boat, and your arms and howitzers ready to repel attack.

"3d. You will avoid any disputes with them, and never be off your guard, or free from suspicion; they are in no case to be trusted.

"4th. Your two boats must never be separated at night, but anchored as close together as possible.

"You will always keep the boats within signal distance of each other, separating them in cases of extreme necessity only for a short time."

These and other instructions will be found in Appendix III.

The Flying-Fish now made her appearance, to my great relief. Her delays had been owing to her having run (on the 8th, the night after she parted company with us), through carelessness, on the reef off the island of Nairai, in fine moonlight, with the reef full in view; here she remained some hours, having had a narrow escape from total wreck; she, however, only lost a part of her false keel. Lieutenant Carr, the first-lieutenant of the Vincennes, was immediately put in command of her. The Peacock and Flying-Fish were now ordered to prepare for sea with all despatch.

I must confess I felt great anxiety for the safety of our parties in the boats, and issued the foregoing orders very particularly, in order to avoid all misapprehension, and to leave as little as possible to the discretion of the officers who had charge of the boats. They were all well armed, and the boats were provided with boarding-nettings; for I felt satisfied that any inattention or want of care would inevitably lead to the destruction, if not of the whole, at least some of the party: the accident that had recently occurred to the tender of the Leonidas, showed that the least degree of confidence reposed in the natives was attended with great risk, and that so treacherous a people were not to be trusted under any circumstances. A departure from these instructions, and an undue confidence, resulting from having for a long time escaped the many dangers encountered, was, I regret to say, the cause