

After all this business was finished, a feast was given to the king and chiefs. At this they took a particular fancy to the wine, of which they seemed inordinately fond. Presents were then made to them, consisting of brass kettles, shawls, hatchets, pipes, tobacco, plane-irons, and small looking-glasses.

Old Tui Mbua readily agreed to accompany the boats to the Asaua Group, showing thereby great confidence on his part, and an intention to be at peace, by leaving his people at the time certainly liable to many contingencies, which it was impossible for us to guard against, from the treachery of those with whom he had been at war. He, however, left an old chief, called Raritona, his counsellor, to act for him during his absence.

During the time occupied in the arrangement of these affairs, the first and second cutters were prepared for an expedition to the Asaua Cluster. Of this, Lieutenant Emmons, with Passed Midshipman Blunt, were placed in charge, with his majesty for a pilot, and two white men as interpreters. Tui Mora, who was quite an intelligent young man, remained on board, with several of his chiefs. Divine service was performed, at which they were present, and behaved with great decorum and propriety. They all, including the old king, expressed a great desire to have missionaries settle among them, and said they would take good care of them, believing that they would put an end to their wars; for "where missionaries lived there were no wars."

This kind of talk is very common among the Feejee chiefs, for deceit is a part of their national character. They are very quick in discerning what will please those whom they wish to conciliate, and readily accede to their views. That this was the case with these people, there can be but little doubt; for, as far as my experience goes, the Feejee character is entirely at variance with the ideas they expressed. They have imbibed these notions from the whites, which will, in time, however, do good, because they believe that what the whites possess is better than that belonging to the dark-coloured race. They may thus become fixed, and rendered really desirous of obtaining the residence of those who are not only the pioneers of religion, but of civilization also, in the islands of Polynesia.

On the 8th June, Captain Hudson set about the survey of Sandalwood Bay. He then, with the naturalists and many of the officers, visited the shore. There are three rivers that flow into the bay; the middle one of these they entered. It has two entrances for boats. It is bordered on each side by extensive mud-flats, which are bare at low water for a considerable distance. Parts of these flats are covered