

those already described. The performers were remarkable for the regularity with which they moved and kept time to their monotonous tune, with their arms, legs, and head. They all joined in the chaunt. Paddy Connel, who was instrumental in getting the dances up, was urged very much to take part, but he felt it would be lowering himself in the eyes of the natives, if he condescended to do so. It was evident, however, that he wished to partake, and he at last allowed himself to be persuaded to join them, when, taking his club, he flourished it aloft, and danced away with all the energy he was possessed of.

Captain Eagleston, intending to sail at the same time with the Peacock, fired his *biche de mar* house in the evening. This is always the custom, in order to prevent its being made use of by any other and smaller traders. It made a glorious illumination.

On the 17th of June, the Peacock left the bay of Naloo, in company with the Leonidas. On the 18th they had advanced to within a few miles of Muthuata, and anchored off the village of Navendarra, where the sailor from the "Who would have thought it!" was murdered and eaten by the natives. The circumstances, as related to me by Mr. Winn, the mate of the Leonidas, who was in charge of the little sloop when the accident occurred, were as follows.*

The man, whose name was Cunningham, volunteered to go on shore for some shell, which they understood the natives had for sale, from their hailing from the shore. He was allowed by Mr. Winn to go, but with the strictest injunctions not to land. On getting to the beach and talking for some time, they told him to come again. He came back to the vessel, and afterwards went on shore again, when he was enticed up to the town, and was there murdered and eaten. Mr. Winn, alarmed at his absence, fired guns and made signals, but to no purpose. It was afterwards ascertained that Cunningham had been employed on board one of the traders, a few years ago, as a sentry over the chief Gingi, at whose town he was murdered. This circumstance claimed a good deal of our attention, as will subsequently appear.

On the afternoon of the 19th, the Peacock anchored off the town of Muthuata.

Captain Hudson immediately despatched Lieutenant Budd, with an interpreter, to visit the king, and invite him and his chiefs to come on board the next day. Lieutenant Budd found the people much alarmed: the women and children had all been sent out of the town, and every thing packed up for removing. The king, how-

* For statement, see Appendix XI.