

The excursion to the top of the peak proved very interesting to our botanists, whose collections were increased by many specimens, among which was a young Kaurie pine. The point which was measured, was two thousand feet high; another point, which was inaccessible, was about three hundred and fifty feet higher, making the highest point two thousand three hundred and fifty feet.

The party witnessed some natives who were employed in taking fish, near the mouth of a small stream, by poisoning the water with the stems and leaves of a climbing *Glycine*, which grows abundantly near the coast.

They had ample evidence of the hostility existing among these natives, in the fear exhibited by their guides when occasionally approaching huts on their rambles, and they said that they would not have dared to venture among the mountaineers except in company with the Papalangis.

In these rambles they occasionally visited the high peaks, and whenever they had a view of the interior, a number of high, volcanic, and many of them sharp-pointed peaks, presented themselves to the eye.

On the 28th, Passed Midshipman Harrison arrived in the schooner *Kai-viti*, with the supply of yams, and my orders to the *Peacock* to join me at Mbua Bay on the 4th of July.

The next day was employed in getting ready to sail. Captain Hudson had employed his carpenters in getting out the frame of a new launch of the iron-wood (*Casuarina*); but subsequently, at the Sandwich Islands, we found that it was ill-adapted for that purpose, and it was consequently rejected.

The king again sent off word that his messengers had returned a second time, without any further tidings of the murderers than those they had first brought.

This day, Joseph Baxter, the second mate of the *Leonidas*, who had been badly burnt when firing a cannon on board the *Leonidas*, was brought on board the *Peacock*. The accident was caused by the ignition of a cartridge which he had carelessly put into his bosom. Every possible attention was paid to him.

The natives of the town of Muthuata appeared to be busily engaged in making preparations for the great feast. Hogs, yams, taro, and turtles, were continually brought into town, and it was said that the king of Muthuata had collected a hundred hogs and ten thousand yams. In anticipation of the coming feast, all articles were tabooed, and none could be purchased.

The women, both old and young, were daily practising their dancing and music, and preparing turbans and masi for the chiefs, while