

turn, if he did not desist. This, with a threat to take a shot at him, brought him to his senses, and in part restored his wonted good-humour. After a rest of two or three hours, most of the boats having joined, we left the island, and reached Sualib Bay at about eight o'clock in the morning. Here I again awaited the arrival of the schooner and boats, which began to drop in.

The cutter, we found, had been drawn up to a considerable distance, and the tide being low, there was a wide mud-flat between her and the place where we lay at anchor, through which a small tortuous creek led up to her.

The natives of the two towns on each side of the bay, one called Tye and the other Sualib, seemed both to be active in preparing to give us a warm reception. Our interpreter gave me reason to expect that we should not get the boat without a sharp fight, and that she would be perhaps destroyed by fire before we should be able to save her. As it would, in all probability, have been attended with loss of life to make the attempt at low water, I determined to await until the tide rose, and in the mean time to attempt to procure her restoration by negotiation. I therefore sent Whippy and Tom to hold a parley, and to state to the natives, that if they restored the boat and every thing belonging to her, I would, for this time, forgive them. One of their chiefs came half-way to meet Whippy, and, both being unarmed, they held a long conference, during which they occasionally referred to their principals. Finally the chiefs agreed to deliver up the boat, which they launched and brought some distance down the creek towards us, whither I sent men to receive her; but she had nothing in her but her spars: all other articles, of every description, including the men's clothes, books and instruments of the officers, breakers, sails, &c., had been detained.

My conditions not being complied with, I determined to make an example of these natives, and to show them that they could no longer hope to commit acts of this description without receiving punishment.

The dinner hour had now arrived, and finding that the tide would not suit for two or three hours, I ordered the boats off to the tender to get dinner, telling the men that we should burn the town before sunset. We accordingly pulled to the tender and took dinner. In the mean time I was occupied detailing the boats with officers and men in divisions, and when the time came, the boats shoved off from the tender, leaving only Dr. Palmer and two men in charge of her.

We moved on in an imposing array, keeping ourselves well prepared for an attack, to which we were necessarily exposed on our approach.