

Few things were found in the town, for the natives had removed all the articles that could be carried away. Three or four weeks of labour would, therefore, suffice to rebuild their houses, and restore them to the same state as before the burning.

There was no opposition made to this attack; all the Feejee men had retired out of gun-shot, and were only now and then seen from behind the bushes, or on some craggy peak on the sides of the neighbouring hills, from which they were occasionally dislodged by our rockets. This firework produced consternation, and dispersed them in every direction. As the boats were pulling off from the shore, a few balls fell near us, but did no damage.

As we pulled off, the launch (Lieutenant Perry) was just seen making her appearance, having got aground in the passage up, and lain the whole of the tide. His men being much exhausted, were transferred to the tender, and others put in their stead. We then all set out for the ships, which we reached a little before midnight.

The infliction of this punishment I deemed necessary; it was efficiently and promptly done, and, without the sacrifice of any lives, taught these savages a salutary lesson.

In the first cutter was private and public property to the value of over one thousand dollars, which was all lost.

By reference to my instructions, it will be seen that cases of theft were expressly mentioned as occasions that might require punishment to be inflicted on the natives; yet this transaction formed the gist of one of the charges preferred against me by the administration, on my return to the United States.

The conduct of the officers and men on this occasion showed a promptness and energy that were highly creditable, and gave me the assurance that they were as much to be depended upon in dangers of this description, as I had hitherto found them in others.

The next day having become satisfied that the Sualib chiefs who had been detained by Lieutenant Perry had really meant to act a friendly part, I determined, for the purpose of making the contrast as strong as possible between those who had offered aid and those who had stolen the cutter, to reward the former for their good intentions.\*

The next morning, all hands were called on deck, and the prisoners

\* It must be borne in mind, that any canoe or vessel, whether native or foreign, when driven on shore, is accounted an offering to the gods. All that it contains is considered as belonging to the chief of the district where the accident happens, and the people on board are at once sacrificed. The opinion I formed of the intentions of the two chiefs who swam off to Lieutenant Perry, was, that they expected an accident to occur to the launch, and being with her, could have at once claimed her as their own, and would have protected the lives of those on board from the multitude by the authority they held over them.