

groves, which was utterly impassable. I lay down upon the sand, determined to await here until some surveying boat might chance to pass; this was but a poor alternative, as I was not aware the island was to be surveyed in this manner, nor was it so surveyed. I had heard that it was inhabited, and of course could have little hope of kindness from a Feejee native. I pushed on a short distance, and lay down quite worn out. I had had no food or drink for eight or nine hours, and had been incessantly upon the move in a very hot day; the muscles of my legs were cramped and painful, and I could go no farther. I committed myself to fortune. I had lain a few moments only when I heard voices behind me, and looking around saw two huge natives, both well armed and running to the spot where I was lying; one was entirely naked, and the other wore a maro only. I was totally unarmed, and rising, offered my hand to the foremost one, at the same time giving them the native greeting. I was rejoiced to see that one of them was a Tongese. They shook hands with me in the most friendly manner, at the same time expressing and inquiring where I came from, who I was, and how I got there. I told them, as well as I could, that I was a 'Turanga Papalangi,' belonging to a 'huanga-levu,' lying in the bay, and had lost my way; at the same time requesting them to guide me back to her, and provide me with water to quench my thirst. After a little parley, during which they were joined by two other Feejee men, they despatched one after cocoa-nuts, and began to examine my clothes and body, showing great curiosity, but being very respectful and good-natured. The nuts were soon brought, and, refreshed by the delicious draught, I set off to follow my guides, not without great distrust. But a short distance was sufficient to deprive me of all strength, and I could drag myself no farther; after a consultation, one of them took me upon his back and carried me through the mangroves, another proceeding with a hatchet, to cut a path. At last I was brought safely to the spot where I had landed from the brig; guns from the brig, fired for me, served to guide my leaders. A boat was immediately sent for me, and I was taken on board, worn out with fatigue, but full of joy and gratitude for my safe return."

These men accompanied Dr. Holmes on board, and were liberally rewarded for their kindness, with hatchets, cloth, paint, fish-hooks, &c.

The inhabitants of this island amount to about thirty; they reckon ten Feejee men and five Tongese, with their families. They have an abundance of provisions, consisting of pigs, fowls, (which are said to be wild in the woods,) yams, taro, and cocoa-nuts. A few women were seen, but they were kept at a distance.