

any such exchange while the schooner was within reach; that they could be supplied by her, and that he must hurry off, as he thought he had been long enough absent (having remained on shore about an hour) to purchase all they required, if the natives were disposed to trade.

After this, Midshipman Henry asked, and Lieutenant Alden gave him permission to land in the canoe, and come off with Lieutenant Underwood. A few moments after, a small canoe came alongside Lieutenant Alden's boat, and exchanged some words with the hostage, who displayed a little anxiety to return with them to the shore. As the canoe shoved off, he attempted to leave the boat, when Lieutenant Alden took him by the arm and directed him to sit down, giving him to understand that he must keep quiet. Lieutenant Emmons now joined, and the *Leopard* was ordered to drop in as near to the party on shore as possible. The tide had by this time risen sufficiently to allow her to go most of the way on the reef. After another half hour had expired, Jerome Davis, one of the boat's crew, came off with a message from Lieutenant Underwood, that with another hatchet he could purchase all he required.

The hatchet was given to Davis, who was directed to say to Lieutenant Underwood that Lieutenant Alden desired to see him without delay, and that he should come off as soon as possible with what he had.

While Lieutenant Alden was relating the circumstances of the hostage's desire to escape to Lieutenant Emmons, from the starboard side of the boat, the hostage jumped overboard from the larboard quarter, and made for the shore, in two and a half feet water, looking over his shoulder, so as to dodge at the flash if fired at. He took a direction different from that of the party on the beach, to divide the attention of those in the boats. Lieutenant Alden immediately levelled his musket at the hostage, who slackened his pace for a moment, and then continued to retreat.

Midshipman Clark, who was ready to fire, was directed to fire over his head, which did not stop him.

J. Clark testifies that Lieutenant Underwood, M'Kean, and himself, were standing near the beach, waiting the return of Davis, when they saw the chief escape from the boat, and heard the report of the musket. The old chief, who was standing near, immediately cried out that his son was killed, and ordered the natives to make fight. Upon this two of them seized upon Clark's rifle, and tried to take it from him. One of these he stabbed in the breast with his sheath-knife; the other Mr Underwood struck on the head with the butt end of his pistol, upon