

do little damage, for they, as I had before been informed was their practice, put charges into them according to the size of the person they intended to shoot at. They believe that it requires a larger load to kill a large man than it does to kill a small one. The bows and arrows were for the most part used by the women.

The moment the flames were found to be spreading, a scene of confusion ensued that baffles description. The shouts of men were intermingled with the cries and shrieks of the women and children, the roaring of the fire, the bursting of the bamboos, and an occasional volley of musketry.

The heat became so intense, that Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold drew off the divisions to a cocoa-nut grove in the neighbourhood, where he waited until the conflagration should have exhausted its fury. After the lapse of an hour, the whole town was reduced to ashes, and a few of the officers and men were able, although with difficulty, to enter within its ditch. It was evident that large quantities of water and provisions (pigs, &c.,) had been stored up, in the anticipation of a long siege. Numerous clubs, spears, bows and arrows, with several muskets, were picked up, together with fish-nets, tapa, &c., and the cap of Lieutenant Underwood. Only four bodies were found, among whom was that of a child, which had been seen during the conflagration, apparently deserted, and in a state of danger, from which our men would gladly have relieved it, had it been possible.

Our party sustained but little injury. Only one man was struck by a ball, which, however, did no other harm than to tear his jacket. Several were wounded by arrows, but only Samuel Stretch, quarter-gunner, so severely as to cause any solicitude.

After the destruction of the town, the third division, under Lieutenant Maury, was ordered to return to the brig, along the beach of the western side of the island. This route was chosen for the sake of the wounded man, who was unable to travel over the hills. The first and second divisions marched across the island to the town of Arro. The officers describe the scene that lay before them, when they had reached the highest part of the ground that lay in their route, as extremely beautiful. In the valley below them, and on the declivities of the hills, were to be seen yam and taro-patches kept in the neatest order, with the small yam-houses (lololo) in the midst, surrounded by groves of tall cocoa-trees, and plantations of bananas. All looked quiet and peaceful, in strong contrast to the exciting contest in which they had just been engaged, and the character of the ruthless and murderous race who had been the occupants of the smiling valley.

Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold, with these divisions, reached the