

on a certain day in the square, where each one deposits in a large heap what goods and wares he may have. Any one may then go and select from it what he wishes, and carry it away to his own heap; the other then has the privilege of going to the heap of the former and selecting what he considers to be an equivalent. This is all conducted without noise or confusion. If any disagreement takes place, the chief is there to settle it; but this is said rarely to happen. The chief has a right to take what he pleases from each heap.

Towards sunset, as was my custom, I went on board.

The missionaries had mentioned to me that the skulls of the men that had been eaten a few days since were lying on the beach. We, in consequence, looked for them, but they were not to be found.

We took leave of our missionary friends, with many feelings of regret, for their situation is a most deplorable one, and I sincerely wished them safely fixed in another and a happier position, and that they had some other protector than the brute Tui Illa-illa, in whose hands their fate seems to be continually precarious.

Here I received information of the wreck of the whale-ship Shylock, on Turtle Island, and felt extremely desirous of sending one of the vessels to the assistance of the crew and preservation of the cargo, if any remained.

I had promised the king and chief that I would show him some of our "fiery spirits" after it grew dark; and when eight o'clock came, the rockets were set off. The loudest shoutings were heard from the beach, where the whole koro had gathered to witness the "fiery spirits" flying in the air. I had promised that they should do them no harm, as we were friends. A rocket happened to be placed just over one of the guns, which, like the others, was kept primed and with the apron on; but the latter not being fastened, the rocket blew it off and set fire to the charge, which went off at the same time. The gun was loaded with grape and canister. Fortunately the tender was lying so that the shot flew obliquely towards the beach, and fell in the water before reaching it. A point or two nearer, and they would have had a practical illustration of our "devils" by their sweeping the arms, legs, and heads of many of them off. The firing of the gun produced great astonishment both to them and ourselves.

The news of Captain Croker's attack on the town of Bea, at Tonga, reached us here, and excited a good deal of interest, as I had but a few months before been endeavouring to mediate a peace between the hostile parties. It appears that Captain Croker, being desirous of bringing the war and difficulties to an end, espoused warmly the mis-