

and appeared much disconcerted at finding their comrade without arms and in his power.

After some conversation with Lieutenant Underwood on the subject, we mutually agreed that in our endeavours to procure provisions, of which we were in need, it would be necessary to adopt every precaution.

Next morning, the 24th, we discovered the schooner at anchor about eight miles to the eastward, and at nine o'clock Lieutenant Emmons joined us with the Peacock's first cutter. Several natives came off with a few yams and small pigs, and in reply to our inquiries, informed us that their town was too distant to bring off provisions in great quantities, and that we must go there if we desired more. I then gave John Sac, our interpreter, permission to visit the town to ascertain if provisions could be obtained; he soon returned, and informed me that he thought we could get what we wanted. Lieutenant Underwood immediately requested permission to go and make the necessary purchases, which I granted, informing him that I would follow as soon as the tide permitted, when he shoved off for the passage between the islands. About the same time, Lieutenant Emmons departed, for the purpose of making observations on the smaller island. I soon perceived that the Leopard grounded in the passage, and that a number of natives, perhaps fifteen or twenty, had collected about her, and joining their song with that of the boat's crew, were assisting to drag her through. As the number of natives appeared increasing, and impelled by apprehensions of some danger, I immediately attempted to follow him, but the cutter being much heavier, I was unable to do so, until after a detention by the tide of perhaps twenty minutes. After getting into the bay, I found the Leopard at anchor about two thousand feet from the shore, in just sufficient water to permit me to get alongside, and was informed by the crew that Lieutenant Underwood had gone ashore, leaving a hostage, whom I immediately took into my boat. With the aid of my glass, I saw Lieutenant Underwood, with several of his crew, apparently in conversation with a party of twelve or fifteen natives. Nothing occurred for the space of an hour, when Robert Furman was sent off by Lieutenant Underwood to inform me that the natives would not trade unless for muskets or powder. I directed Furman to return to the shore and say to Mr. Underwood, that I would not consent to such an exchange while the schooner was within reach; that we could be supplied by her; and to hurry off, as I thought he had been quite long enough absent to purchase all we required, if the natives were disposed to trade. About this time Midshipman Henry obtained my permission, and left for the shore. A few