

minutes after, a small canoe came alongside, and after an exchange of some words with the hostage, he displayed a little anxiety to return with them to the shore. As they pushed off, he attempted to leave the boat, when I took him by the arm and directed him to sit down, giving him to understand, as well as possible, that he must keep quiet till the return of our party. Shortly after, Lieutenant Emmons rejoined me, and made his boat fast to mine.

In about half an hour Jerome Davis came off to say, that with another hatchet Lieutenant Underwood could purchase all required. I directed Davis to take it to him, and say to Mr. Underwood, that I desired to see him without delay; to come off with what he could get as soon as possible. In the mean time, the water having risen, I ordered the Leopard to drop in as near the landing as possible. She had been gone about ten minutes, when the hostage jumped overboard and made for the beach, which was the first intimation I received of any thing going wrong on the shore. I immediately seized my rifle and directed it at him, when he slackened his pace. I then ordered two men to follow and secure him; he thereupon resumed his course, when I determined to shoot him, but stayed my hand lest his death should bring destruction to our absent people. As I turned to direct my boat to be got under way, I noticed Midshipman Clark in the act of firing, and ordered him to fire over his head, at the same time directed Lieutenant Emmons to pull after and take him if possible, dead or alive. The report of fire-arms then reached us from the beach, to which ensued a general *mêlée*, the natives having suddenly increased to about fifty. By this time my boat was flying before a fresh breeze to the stage of conflict, and I called to Lieutenant Emmons to follow me. In a few moments we passed the Leopard shoving out, when I was informed of the death of Lieutenant Underwood. The boats had not yet grounded, but we immediately jumped overboard, and with all speed hastened to the beach, opening a fire upon the natives as soon as they were within range, when they immediately dispersed, carrying off their dead and wounded. Before we got upon the beach, we found J. G. Clark (seamen), badly wounded, and delirious; I directed some one to take him to the boat, and continued my course. When I reached the beach nothing living was to be seen. About ten paces from the water I found Lieutenant Underwood lying upon his back, partially stripped of his clothing. I raised his head upon my arm, and hope was for a moment flattered on perceiving some signs of life; but, alas! he breathed twice only. Turning aside from the melancholy spectacle, my eye fell on Midshipman Henry, who lay very much in the same situation in which I had found Lieu-