

required but little argument to prove to him the selfish views of the French consul. Whatever he might have done had his first requisitions not been complied with, I cannot believe, that to secure a commercial treaty (which does not appear to have been part of his instructions), however advantageous, he would have ventured to commence hostilities, or that, if opposed on this point, he would have proceeded to trample on the rights of the monarch of a weak and unoffending nation.

It was now that Captain Laplace insisted upon the recognition, in the capacity of consul, of the irresponsible individual of whom we have spoken under that style, but who had not hitherto been received by the government.

The affair terminated by the landing of Captain Laplace, with two hundred of his men, fully armed and equipped for battle, for the purpose of celebrating mass in one of the straw-built houses of the king.

The frigate sailed the day after this ceremony; and thus, in the space of ten days, Captain Laplace had, by the terror of his cannon, forced a dreaded religion upon a reluctant people, heaped ignominy on the sovereign and chiefs, trodden down the laws, and left the islands open to the introduction of immorality and vice, besides carrying off in his frigate the whole of the circulating medium. This was truly an heroic exploit, and one that must redound greatly to the credit of all who were concerned in it!

The immediate consequences of the treaty, were it not for their serious results, would be ludicrous. The brig *Clementine*, which has before been mentioned, was immediately despatched by the French consul to the coast of South America, whence she returned without delay, having on board the Bishop of Nicopolis with several priests, and a full cargo of French wines and brandy. It is needless to describe the effect which the introduction of quantities of intoxicating liquor produced upon the population of the islands, the inferior classes of which have still the propensity manifested by all savages for this worst product of the arts of civilized nations. The chiefs have indeed endeavoured to put some impediment in the way of the progress of the scourge, by making it necessary to obtain a license for the retail of spirituous liquors.

After this account, it will be easy to understand the feelings of mortification and regret with which the king spoke of the Laplace treaty. He said, that he was not surprised that France should have sent a force to inquire whether his people had injured the natives of that country who had visited them, but he did wonder that so great a nation as France was represented to him to be, should have wished to destroy his laws, and make his people drunkards for the sake of selling