

amusing to a bystander, for the players always evince great eagerness, and during the operation of concealment, the face and eyes are narrowly watched by some, while the muscles of the bare arm are by others. So satisfied are they that the eye betrays the place of concealment, that the hider covers his eyes until he hears the stroke of the rod. An expert player is rarely deceived, however often the hand may be passed to and fro under the bundles. This game is now played for pigs, tapa, taro, &c.

The governor gave us an exhibition of throwing the lance, which he said had formerly been a favourite amusement of all the people, but was now practised only by the soldiers. The lance or spear is formed of a pole of the hibiscus, from seven to nine feet in length, on the larger end of which is a small roll of tapa. The exhibition was in the fort, where several soldiers had prepared themselves for the exercise. One of them placed himself at a distance of fifteen or twenty paces from three or four others, who endeavoured to hit him. He evaded the spears by throwing his body on one side, stooping, and dodging, in a very graceful manner. After this they were ordered to divide, and began throwing at each other, until, when one or two had been hit rather severely, the contest waxed warm, and blows were dealt without much ceremony, until the combatants came to close quarters, when the sport ended in a scuffle, which it required the authoritative voice of the governor to terminate.

This scene was highly amusing, and was the only occasion during my stay at the islands, in which I saw any temper shown, or any disposition to fight. The natives, indeed, are remarkably good-tempered; and many persons long resident here stated to me they very seldom quarrelled with each other. I have observed that when they see another in a passion they generally laugh, although they themselves may be the object of it.

In the latter part of October, when the Vincennes had nearly finished her repairs, it was discovered that her foremast was so rotten as to make it necessary to take it out and rebuild it on shore. By using one of the spare topmasts and purchasing a spar, we succeeded in rebuilding it. The cheeks and trestle-trees of the Peacock's mast had also to be replaced in consequence of decay. These were vexatious occurrences, occupying the little time we had to spare, and making it uncertain whether we should be able to perform the remainder of our work. Fortunately, we found at Honolulu good workmen, disposed to afford us all the assistance in their power, and being also well provided ourselves with carpenters, we were enabled to overcome these difficulties in time, though at considerable expense.