

Smith, with an intent to kill him. On meeting Smith, he asked him for the siapo, which he denied having, upon which he killed him with the axe."

From other evidence, it fully appeared that all the family of Palasi were cognizant of the fact; and the chiefs having refused to give him up, or try him for murder, it became necessary to show these islanders that they could not commit such acts with impunity. Captain Hudson was, therefore, instructed to inquire into the facts, and take such measures as would secure our citizens from molestation in future, and cause the islanders to respect their own regulations.

From the Samoan Group the Peacock was to proceed to examine and survey Ellice's Group; thence north to the Kingsmill Group, and passing through the Rurick Chain, visit the Pescadores, to ascertain, if possible, any circumstances that would throw light on the fate of a Captain Dowsett, who it was supposed might have been detained in captivity by the natives. The following particulars from his wife were furnished me by Mr. Brinsmade, the American consul at Oahu: they are all that is known of his fate.

The schooner *Victoria* was in charge of Captain Dowsett, and went to the Pescadores, on a shelling voyage; there he landed with several of the crew, and among them a boy named Brown. Some difficulty occurred on shore, and the captain and such of the crew as were with him were set upon, and were not seen afterwards. The boy escaped. The survivors describe the people as a fishing party, unarmed and unwarlike, with no other weapons but sticks and pieces of iron hoops purchased from the schooner. They had neither clubs nor spears. A report afterwards reached Oahu, that a canoe had been picked up with some natives, who reported that Captain Dowsett and his men were alive; that one of them was named Sam, (the Christian name of Captain Dowsett,) and another George, (the name of a New Zealander.) Mr. H. A. Pierce, a merchant of Honolulu, in consequence, despatched the schooner *Waverley* in search of them. This vessel has never been heard of, but reports reached Honolulu, that Captain Scott, had succeeded in getting the chief on board, and had recognised several articles belonging to Captain Dowsett, which his wife had sent him. Some misunderstanding occurring between the master of the *Waverley* and the chief, the former cut off the beard of the latter and sent him on shore.

The cause of the difficulty that occurred between Mr. Dowsett and the natives is unknown. The boy, Brown, was at a distance from the party when it took place, and did not see Mr. Dowsett. Dowsett and the chief had been previously on the most friendly terms, and had