

exchanged tokens of friendship. I was desirous of clearing up the mystery that hung over their fate, and also that of the *Waverley*, and directed the *Peacock* to visit, for this purpose, Strong's and Ascension Islands, after leaving the *Pescadores*.

The facts known concerning the *Waverley* are very few, but they lead to the belief that she lies a wreck on Strong's Island. The schooner *Honduras*, Captain Scott, went to Strong's Island under the impression that the natives were very peaceable and friendly, intending to overhaul the vessel there, in the east bay. At noon on the 23d of August, 1835, he arrived off the island. No canoes came alongside, a circumstance which excited the suspicion of several of the crew that had formerly resided there, for they knew that it was customary for some of the natives to board a vessel as soon as she neared the island. They told their fears to the captain; but canoes arriving shortly after with presents of bread-fruit, he manifested some displeasure that the crew should have had any doubts on the subject, and calling to one of them who formerly had lived there, told him to ask the natives where all the white men were. They readily answered, "On the other side of the island," which at once quieted the captain's suspicions, though it appeared to confirm those of some of the crew who knew them better. The captain, however, ordered the boat to be hoisted out, and gave as many of the crew as chose, permission to go on shore. Two of them went immediately, and then the captain and six others. Shortly after, the natives began to throng on board. In about half an hour, those remaining on board heard the captain call for help, which was the last they knew respecting him.

On seeing that the attack had begun on shore, the natives on board instantly attacked the seven men remaining in the vessel. The mate and another man rushed below, and having armed themselves with muskets, they again reached the deck: the natives who had possession of it, seeing the fire-arms, immediately jumped overboard. An American, named Webber, and a Malay, were found lying dead; the other three had disappeared. The natives now discovering that the muskets were out of order, endeavoured again to get on board, but were kept off until the swivels were loaded, when they all swam for the shore. These two men at once slipped the cable, and got the vessel under way. When beating out of the harbour, a cannon was fired at them several times, with so well-directed an aim, that the shot passed close to the vessel. This gun was believed to be a six-pounder, belonging to the *Waverley*; and it is thought that that vessel was captured, and is now lying a wreck there.

The *Honduras* put away for Ascension Island, where she arrived in