

ten days, and was taken possession of by Mr. Dudoit, the part owner, who obtained another crew; she then returned to Strong's Island, and cruised off and on for a month, but nothing was seen after the first day, when two boats and a canoe approached the vessel. One of the boats was recognised as that belonging to the Honduras, in which the captain had gone on shore; the other was thought to belong to the Waverley, but the boats did not come near enough to permit them, or the persons in them, to be distinguished: they were, however, clothed. Guns fired at them when they were entirely out of reach, caused them to return. Masts, supposed to have been those of a vessel, were seen over the land.

A rumour reached Tahiti, a year afterwards, that both Captain Cathcart, of the Waverley, and Captain Scott, were living at Strong's Island, and that the hull of the Waverley was lying rotting in a creek on the west side of the island.

In looking into all the facts of these cases, it seems that there may have been some cause for the great change that took place in the conduct of the natives of these islands, in the course pursued by the whites. It appears by testimony in my possession, that Mr. Dudoit had confined and taken away two men against their will, on a former visit. We have also seen that Captain Cathcart, of the Waverley, had maltreated a chief, by cutting off his beard: this act was sufficient to incense the whole people, and to cause the capture and massacre of all the whites within reach; for it is an indignity that no natives of the South Seas would submit to. It seems very probable that the whites could have become so ascendant on the island, in so short a time as elapsed between the two visits of the Honduras; but it is not at all surprising that the natives should have visited Mr. Dudoit's sins upon the head of his captain.

There was an impression at Oahu, that white men must have had some agency in the business, from the manner in which the guns were directed and fired. If a massacre took place on board the Waverley, it is not improbable that two or three might have been spared, held in subjection by the natives, and forced to perform this service. The presence and action of whites may have arisen from runaways from vessels, for we have had ample proof that throughout the Pacific isles there are dissolute characters, who would be as prone as any savage to deeds of piracy or blood, if they themselves were to derive any benefit from it.

Whatever were the true state of things, I felt well satisfied that it was desirable for some part of our force to visit this island; both it and Ascension were therefore included in the orders of Captain Hud-