

this fellow to say, that in all probability he never imagined there was any danger of loss of life; for if these people are at home any where, it is certainly in the surf, enjoying as a pleasure what we from our want of knowledge and confidence in the art of swimming, consider dangerous.

Some account will now be given of the proceedings of the officers left in the Vincennes, and of the festivities which they exchanged with the chief Kanuha and the missionaries.

Lieutenant Carr, who had charge of the ship, was also, with the officers under him, entrusted with the duties of the observatory, including the meteorological and tidal observations. Acting Master Totten and Passed Midshipman May were engaged on the charts.

Among the festivities was one given by the chief Kanuha to the officers. Kanuha lives in a large native house, situated on the south side of the bay, in a pretty location near the beach, and surrounded by large trees, which not only add to its beauty, but afford the shade so important in this climate.

The chief is, like all those of noble blood of these islands, of large dimensions, and might be called a fine-looking man. He is thought to regard his own interest before that of others, and is desirous of making money when and how he can. His wife is equally remarkable among her sex in size. He was dressed in a blue roundabout and white pantaloons, hat, and shoes; his wife and females about the house were chiefly dressed in calico gowns, such as have been before described. Lieutenant Case, Messrs. Waldron and Drayton, and two or three midshipmen, went to the feast or dinner. The hour of dinner was one o'clock. They were received with much dignity in an apartment which occupied the whole house, and was decorated with green wreaths, not unlike our churches at Christmas. This room contained all the goods and chattels of the proprietor, consisting of two bedsteads, good beds and bedding, tapa screens, nests of beautiful camphor trunks, fine mats, common chairs, with several large chests, said to contain much riches. The visitors were presented by Kanuha to his wife, her sister, and his five daughters: the former were robed in neatly-made black silk dresses, with high-topped combs in their heads. Kanuha's youngest daughter, however, seemed to make the most impression. She and her sisters were dressed in painted-muslin dresses, white stockings, and shoes; their heads were tastefully ornamented with the valuable feather-wreath, before spoken of, and a garland or wreath of a carmine-coloured flower, natural to the island; in their hair behind were enormous high-topped shell-combs; a red silk sash, and a sweet-scented evergreen garland thrown over their shoulders,