

to more caution in future. This, it seems to me, is rather an absurd argument as respects a community that have been acting under a constitution and laws, with their pious teachers, for the last fifteen or twenty years.

These disturbances manifestly arise from want of respect, on the part of the rival chiefs, for their queen and her husband: the latter are disposed to look upon the royal conduct as disgraceful, and as setting an example highly derogatory to their own standing and that of the chiefs and nation. They believe these difficulties to be owing to the intervention of foreigners, who take every opportunity to set the laws at defiance; and since the visit of the *Venus*, Captain Du Petit Thouars, foreigners have been still more active in taking advantage of the difficulties that these natives get into.

At the time the *Porpoise* visited Papieti, the queen was absent on a visit to one of the other islands of the group, accompanied by a large retinue of attendants, with nearly three hundred soldiers, dressed in queer and uncouth uniforms, somewhat similar to what has already been described.

Since our first visit, it was remarked by the officers, that a more efficient police had been established at Papieti: no sailors or riotous persons were allowed to be abroad after eight o'clock, without a written pass from the consul; and in case of being found without such a document, the offender was put in the stocks and kept there until a fine of two dollars was paid. This regulation was found necessary to preserve the peace of the village; and was said to be rigidly enforced.

The American property that has visited the ports of Tahiti during the last year, has, according to information derived from our consul, amounted to upwards of five millions of dollars.

Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold having completed the duties, including the magnetic and chronometric observations he was charged with in visiting Tahiti, obtained water, refreshed the crew, and took his departure; but in consequence of the calms that prevailed, he found much difficulty in leaving the port.

Immediately on getting outside, they were influenced by a rapid current, setting to the southward. For three or four days they had very light winds or calms, and made but little progress on their route: the weather was exceedingly warm. On the 3d of February, they had a strong breeze from the northward and northwest; after this had continued for two days, it hauled to the northeast. Several of the crew were taken down with dysentery and fever.

The trade-wind was found at this season of the year in latitude 13° S.; and from what information I was able to gather, I am disposed to