

tone of their voices was altogether discordant, at one moment high and shrill, and at the next sinking to a deep gruff base. In their harangues they slapped their thighs with great violence, and some wrung their hands and cried, protruding their eyes, and making frightful grimaces, reminding one strongly of maniacs in their utmost frenzy. They were not capable of fixing their attention for a moment on any one object, but with fitful rapidity they changed their regards from one thing to another.

Although they at first seemed unarmed, yet, upon a close inspection it was seen that they had weapons concealed in their canoes. A few of them succeeded in getting on board, and several articles were pilfered from the poop-deck, among them a pea-jacket, which was quickly and adroitly secreted in one of the canoes. A huge savage, with his eyes apparently starting out of his head, seized the man-rope, pulled the stanchion out of its place, and was in the act of passing it over the side when it was rescued from him. The islanders now became troublesome, and the order was given to clear the decks, which was quickly done by the crew with their cutlasses, but none of their visitors were injured. The moment they got into their canoes, large pieces of coral and shells were hurled on board with great force: two guns were fired over their heads, but they took no notice of them, and stood up in their canoes, brandishing their spears and yelling defiance. As their numbers were constantly increasing, Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold thought it prudent to keep the brig under way, beat to quarters, and made preparations to meet attack, if it should be intended.

Three or four canoes were kept towing astern, and after many ineffectual and long-continued efforts, a trade was begun for their arms, necklaces, &c., which they parted with for iron, knives, cloth, and other articles. The first they designated by the name of "toke," and the meaning of several other of their words was ascertained. These islanders did not know the use of tobacco, but would receive any and every thing offered: on receiving the articles they immediately thrust on board the article sold, and appeared fair in dealing, though they proved themselves to be expert thieves.

Like other natives of Polynesia, they seemed a half amphibious race, diving for any thing dropped overboard with great ease and unconcern. They are of a light olive colour, though darker than either the Samoans or Tahitians, with fine black hair. The old men had beards and mustaches. They partook of the Samoan cast of feature, and are an equally athletic, erect, and finely-formed race.

Neither tattooing nor circumcision appears to be practised, but many of the men were observed to have lost their front teeth. The custom,