

patches: there is a boat-entrance into it. On the northwest side there appears to be a continuous village, with cocoa-nut groves throughout its whole extent, and the island is evidently very thickly peopled: the ferocity of the savages precluded the possibility of attempting a landing.

The island is believed to afford some tortoise-shell and pearls; but the ferocious and savage disposition of the natives would require traders to be strongly armed.

Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold induced one of the natives to come on board for a hatchet, and directed him to draw the shape of the island with a piece of chalk; but he proved so wild and was so much amazed, that he did nothing but leap about, constantly uttering exclamations.

The communication with this island was too brief and imperfect to obtain any satisfactory knowledge of its manners and customs, and the disposition of the natives was averse to such intercourse: they appeared to have been seldom visited by vessels. It is believed that they have the domestic fowl among them, from its feathers having been seen as ornaments. The yam was also observed, but not the taro.

The brig supplied them with sweet-potatoes, pumpkins, and oranges, and made signs that they were to plant them, which they well understood, and engaged to do.

In exchange for the various articles we received, they were given knives, shawls, iron, hatchets, and cotton cloth.

It was remarked that they possessed the most astonishing talent for haranguing: some individuals continued for three quarters of an hour to hold forth in a tone which it seemed impossible for any individual to sustain for more than a few minutes, hardly stopping to take breath, and keeping up at the same time constant and violent gesticulations. These attracted no attention from their fellows, as each seemed bent upon doing his part, and tried to be equally uproarious.

It was now deemed impossible to extend the cruise to the Isles of Danger, agreeably to the instructions, on account of want of time and scarcity of provisions. This I regret, as I was very desirous that these islands, pointed out by Admiral Krusenstern, should be examined. This cruise would also have embraced the western positions of Flint's and other islands, as laid down on Arrowsmith's Chart. Compelled to forego this part of his intended task, he stood to the northward, for the purpose of fulfilling that portion of his instructions that lay in his route to the Hawaiian Group.

Between latitudes 3° S. and 5° N., the easterly current was found to prevail, as before observed by the squadron, between 5° and 10°