

The north shore is rocky, and composed, as far as we could examine it of conglomerate, and in some few places of a reddish granite.

In the morning we were boarded by a large canoe, with Indians who spoke a few words of English; and we had occasion to notice the wide difference between them and the Polynesians, both in language and appearance. No contrast can be more striking than this. They seemed to have scarcely any idea of decency, and to be little less elevated in their moral qualities than the Fuegians.

The principal man of the party was dressed in a coarse coat of red cloth, with the Hudson Bay Company's buttons, and corduroy trousers. He had neither shirt, shoes, nor hat, although the rain was falling fast. The others were habited in blankets or skins, and wore conical grass hats, resembling in shape those of the Chinese.

The first inquiry was, whether we were Boston or King George's ships, by which terms they distinguish Americans and English.

They brought with them for sale some fish and a few furs. On the latter they appeared to set a high value, and were not a little disappointed when they learned that we had no desire to purchase them. They readily parted with their fine fish for a few fish-hooks and a little tobacco.

These Indians were short, thick-set, bow-legged, muscular, and seemed capable of enduring great fatigue. The most obvious peculiarity was the shape of their heads, which appeared to have been compressed, both before and behind, so as to give them the form of a wedge. Their cheek-bones were high, and their eyes, which were fine, were set wide apart: their colour was a light copper. The oblique eye of the Chinese was not uncommon, and they had long flowing hair: aquiline or Roman noses were prevalent. Their countenances wore an expression of wildness, and they had, in the opinion of some of us, a melancholy cast of features.

It was amusing to us, who had no very exalted opinion of the Feejeeans, to observe the contempt our prisoner Vendovi entertained for these Indians, which was such that he would hardly deign to look at them.

They manifested little curiosity, which was not excited even by the appearance of a ship so much larger than any they could have before seen, armed and manned in a manner so superior to what is usual in the vessels that visit them for traffic.

They wore but few ornaments, and that on which they seemed to set the greatest value was a small silver tube stuck through the cartilage of the nose. A few of them had small brass bells suspended around the rim of their ears.