

Only one woman was seen in the canoes, and every endeavour was made to induce her to come on board, that her likeness might be procured, but without effect; she could not be prevailed upon. She was prepossessing in her appearance, with a pleasing expression of countenance, and had a modest demeanour. She wore a cincture around her waist, and a mat over her bosom. The cincture was made of pandanus-leaves; this was fastened to a cord as a thick fringe, two feet in length, and extended to her knees. Her arms were beautifully tattooed, of the same figure as the men, but the tattooing was continued down the leg in horizontal stripes, an inch and a half wide. This constitutes a great difference from the Polynesians, for with them we have never before met with any females who were tattooed, excepting a few marks on the fingers and feet.

Twenty or thirty of these natives came on board, while the rest remained in the canoes, of which there were about fifteen, having an average of five natives to each. Their desire was to exchange their articles for hatchets and plane irons: iron-articles of all kinds were in great demand, together with beads and rings.

After they had exhausted their desire for trade, some few of them went below, and entertained the officers with a dance and song, both of which resembled those of Polynesia, which have been heretofore described.

In the afternoon the chief paid the ship a visit. He was styled both the god and chief of the island, and was a very fine-looking man, about forty years of age, and grave in his deportment. He reckoned six towns on the island, five of them on the northeast side, and one on the southwest. The population was estimated at one thousand.

The natives said that they had pigs and taro, and brought off some of the latter; but it was small, both in size and quantity. The only articles of food that the natives had with them in their canoes were the young cocoa-nut and the fruit of the pandanus. The former were, for the most part, quite young, and fit only for drinking; but there were some that were old and filled with pulp, to which they gave the name of utanu, and of which they seemed very fond. Besides taro, they said that they had a much larger root, called "pulaka." Yams and bananas they knew by name, but had none of them.

An opening being discovered as the ship passed along the reef, Lieutenant De Haven was sent to examine it, and he found a good ship-channel into the lagoon. The passage was one-third of a mile wide, and the least depth of water in it was five fathoms. It leads to an anchorage in from seventeen to twenty fathoms, on a sandy bottom, where a vessel may lie well protected by the reef. The current was