

When they arrived alongside, they made much clamour and many gesticulations, but refused to leave their canoes. After some enticing, one was induced to venture on board. They evidently comprehended that the vessel was of a different character from what they had been accustomed to see. The one who gained the deck showed much agitation, but when he saw the arm-chest opened and a musket taken out, his fears were too much for him, and he at once sprang over the stern into the water, and swam to his canoe. Others came on board, but they in their turn, were frightened in like manner, and took to their canoes.

The arms and legs of a large proportion of the natives exhibited numerous scars, many of which were still unhealed. These had been made with shark's-teeth swords, such as were seen at the Depeyster Group, weapons which are calculated rather to make severe gashes than dangerous wounds. The spears are equally formidable, and four rows of shark's teeth are inserted in them; some are of the uncommon length of twenty feet, but they are usually about eight or ten feet long, and have prongs projecting from their sides also armed with teeth. A drawing of these arms is given in the wood-cut at the end of the chapter.

They were evidently in the habit of having severe conflicts with one another, and war seems to be one of the principal employments of this people.

In order to guard against the destructive effect of these arms, they had invented a kind of armour, which was almost an effectual defence against their weapons, and accounted at once for their arms and legs being the only parts where scars were seen. This consisted of a sort of cuirass, covering the body as far down as the hips, and rising above the back of the head three or four inches. This, when taken off and set upon the deck, somewhat resembled a high-backed chair. It was made of plaited cocoanut-husk fibres, woven into as solid and compact a mass as if it had been made of board half an inch thick, and was as stiff as a coat of mail. For the legs and arms, they have also a covering of netted sennit of the same material, which they put on. That for the legs resembles a pair of overhauls, such as sailmakers use, with straps over the shoulders. The covering for the arms is drawn on in like manner. The appearance of the body was as if it were clothed in pantaloons and jacket of a deep brown colour. This they must find a very inconvenient covering for their hot climate. However singular the body-dress is, that of the head is still more so: it consists of the skin of the porcupine-fish, cut open at the head, and stretched sufficiently large to admit the head of a man. It is perfectly