

appeased, nor is the occasion of offence remembered with any feelings of rancour. The women seem to possess stronger passions than the men, and more enduring wrath; jealousy is the principal exciting cause with them, and they will sometimes carry a small weapon, made of a shark's tooth, concealed for months, watching an opportunity of making an attack; desperate fights are the consequence of this, and so much injury is done before these ferocious combatants can be parted, that they often suffer from terrible wounds. Yet Kirby says, he found in other respects than this the women always more humane and gentle than the men.

Like all savages, they are treacherous and cruel to the last degree; although they seem less prone to fighting than other natives whom we had met during our cruise. Kirby mentioned, that they had had no war on the three islands where he was resident, for upwards of five years. This may be partly owing to the difficulty of fitting out expeditions to attack the other islands, and the hazard of communicating with those islands of which they have a knowledge.

Another custom is remarkable: when a fisherman arrives with a well-loaded canoe, his neighbours assemble around him, selecting and taking away such as they please, leaving the owner nothing in return but the satisfaction of knowing, that on a similar occasion he has a like privilege to help himself. Custom has so far sanctioned this habit of appropriating things belonging to another, that, according to Kirby, they have no term to designate a poor man, except that of slave. Any one who owns land can always call upon others to provide him with a house, canoe, and the necessaries of life; but one who has none is considered as a slave, and can hold no property whatever.

The courtesies of life with them are few, and the want of them probably arises from their privilege of making use of what belongs to another as their own. Their salutations on meeting are confined to simple inquiries, "Where are you going?" or, "Whence do you come?" The rubbing of noses is only practised on special occasions. On meeting a chief, the other natives leave the path and stand aside until he passes, but make no gestures or expression of obeisance. This same mark of respect is also rendered to all the women by the other sex.

They are said to be kind and affectionate to their children, and to indulge them in every thing; they never punish them even for the most insolent and passionate behaviour, only using kind and affectionate words: this may account for the rude treatment that was observed to be in practice among the natives of Drummond's Island towards our gentlemen as well as their conduct towards each other. There is, how-