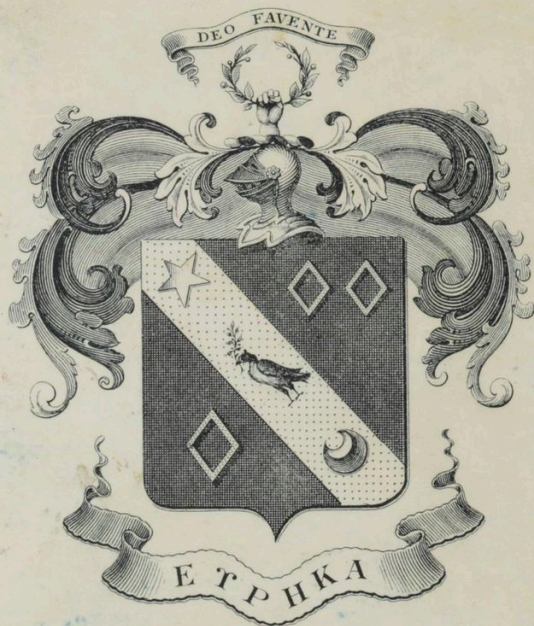
The image shows the front cover of a book. The cover is decorated with a traditional marbled paper pattern. The primary color is a deep red, which is interspersed with wavy, horizontal bands of bright yellow and dark blue. Scattered throughout the red background are numerous circular and irregular spots of a light tan or cream color, creating a complex, organic texture. The marbling is contained within a dark, possibly black or dark brown, leather-like border that frames the central patterned area. The spine of the book is visible on the left edge, showing a similar dark border with a small, repeating decorative motif.

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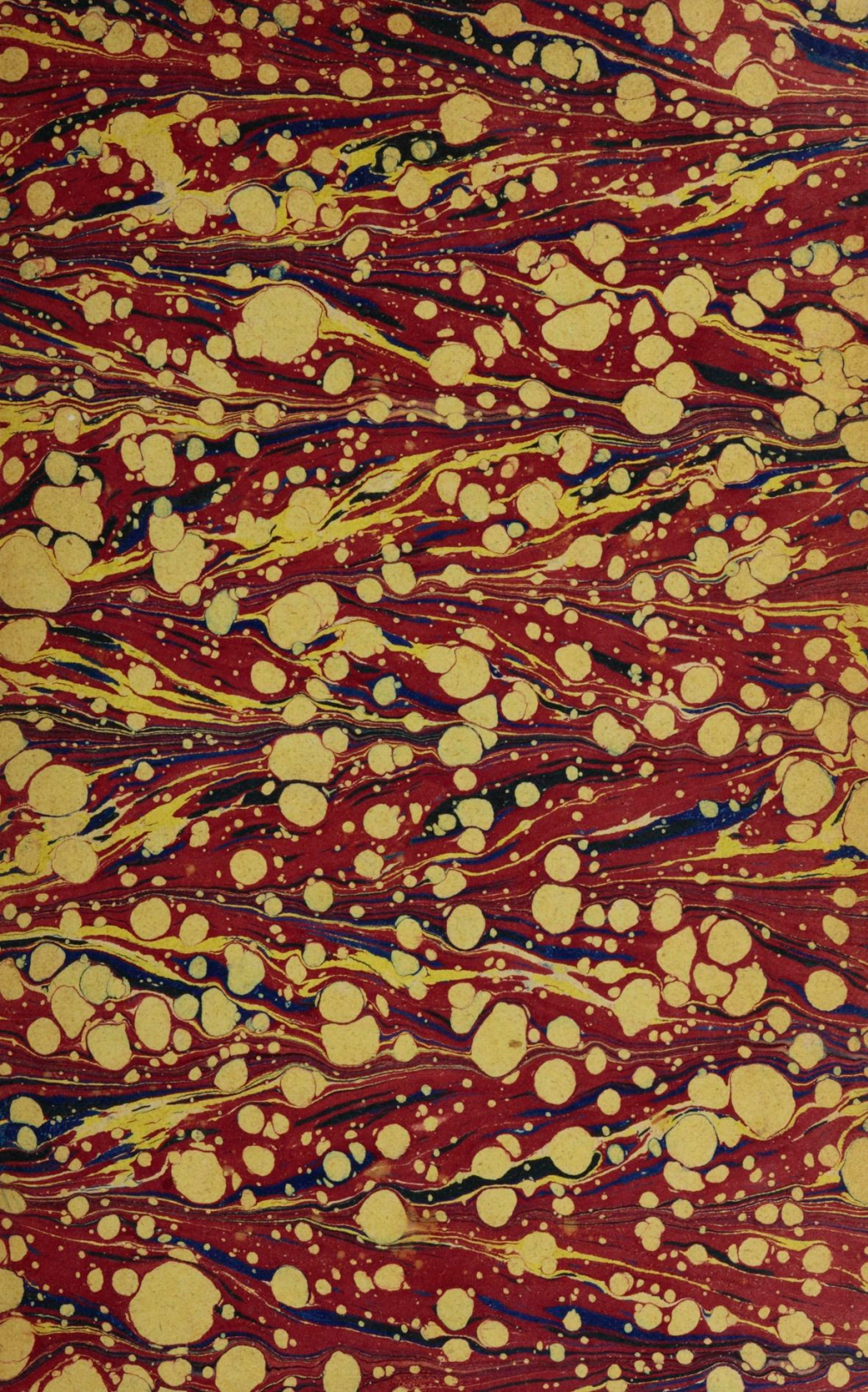
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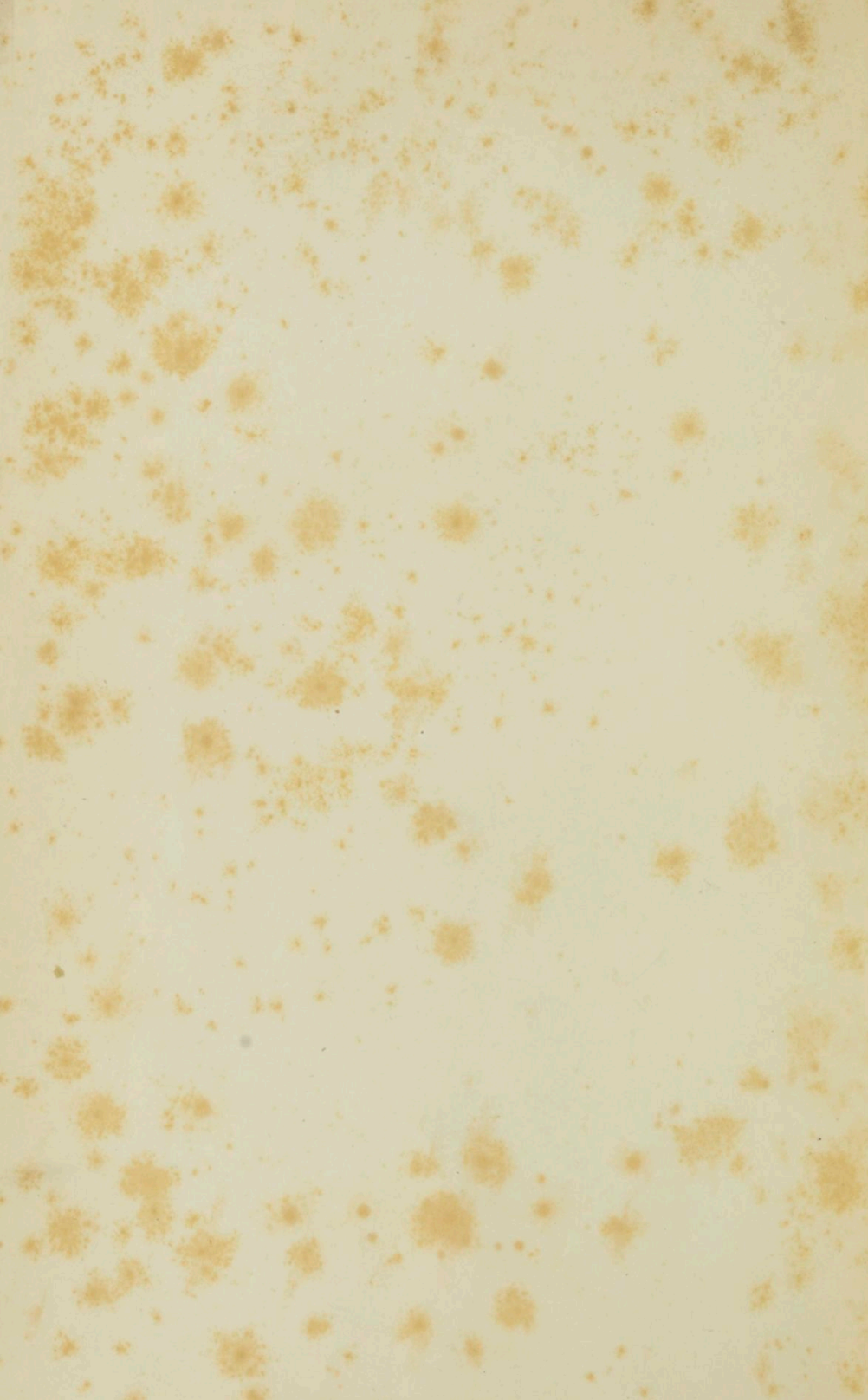
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L. Mitchell

NARRATIVE

OF

A VOYAGE

FROM

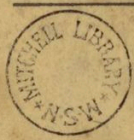
SYDNEY TO TORRES' STRAITS,

IN SEARCH OF THE



SURVIVORS OF THE CHARLES EATON.

WITH TWENTY-NINE ILLUSTRATIONS.



Sydney:

PRINTED BY HENRY BULL.

1836.

London:

SOLD BY J. CROSS, 18, HOLBORN,

1837.

PRICE ONE SHILLING AND SIXPENCE.

NARRATIVE

A VOYAGE



TO THE ISLANDS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

BY JAMES COOK, CAPTAIN OF THE BRIG "HMS DISCOVERY"

WITH A HISTORY OF THE DISCOVERY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

BY JAMES COOK

AND A HISTORY OF THE DISCOVERY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

1771

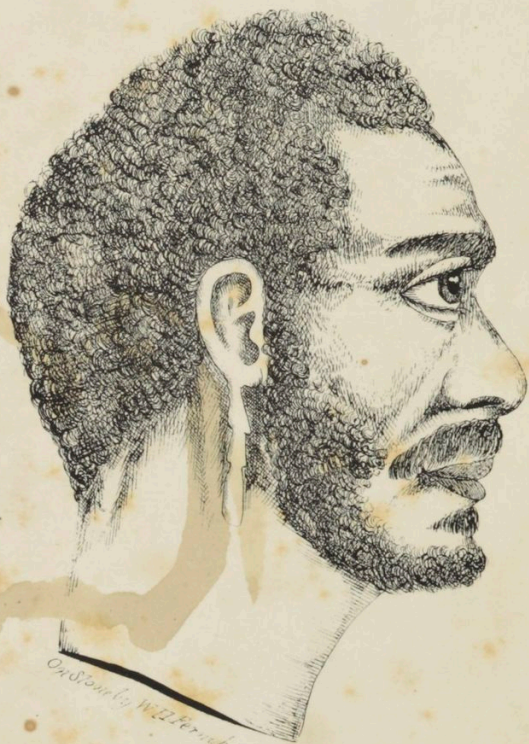
LONDON:

PRINTED BY R. DODD, ST. PAULS CHURCH-YARD

1771

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES, Kew, Surrey





MADDO.

A DISTINGUISHED WARRIOR OF MURRAY'S ISLAND.

*From a Drawing by W^m Eggleston Esq^r Com^r of A.S.T. Ship Tiger
Printed by J. G. Austen & Co. N^o 12 Bridge Street Sydney N.S.W.*



NARRATIVE

OF A VOYAGE FROM

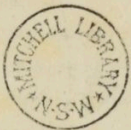
SYDNEY TO TORRES' STRAITS,

IN SEARCH OF THE

SURVIVORS OF THE CHARLES EATON;

IN HIS MAJESTY'S COLONIAL SCHOONER ISABELLA,

C. M. LEWIS, COMMANDER.



BY

WILLIAM EDWARD BROCKETT.

SYDNEY:

PRINTED BY HENRY BULL.

1836.

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUSTRALIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

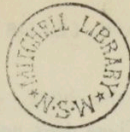
STUDY TO DETERMINE THE

REQUIREMENTS OF THE

IN THE HIGHER COLLEGE

BY J. EDWARD ROBERTS

H. BULL, PRINTER,
AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE BUILDINGS.



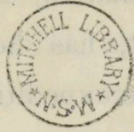
L I S T

OF

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P R E F A C E.

THE writer of the following pages is induced to present them to the notice of the public, in consequence of repeated solicitations on the part of several individuals, for whose opinions he is bound to entertain respect.

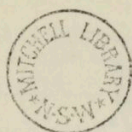
The loss of the Charles Eaton and the fate of the unfortunate persons on board that vessel have occupied the attention of the public for many months, and the peculiar circumstances of the case have been contemplated with fearful anxiety. It, therefore, cannot be deemed intrusive to give a plain statement of all that hitherto has been discovered respecting the melancholy event.

No certain information, with the exception of a short extract, has been published as to the result of the expedition under Captain Lewis, and various reports concerning it are in course of circulation. The writer, therefore, feels a degree of satisfaction in being enabled to publish a narrative, which shall have a tendency to correct any mis-statements that have been made, as well as to give an accurate account of the voyage of the *Isabella*. He was on board that vessel during the late expedition, and was personally concerned in many of the transactions which he describes. The accounts relative to the wreck of the *Charles Eaton*, and the subsequent massacre of the people of that vessel, were obtained from the boy, John Ireland, who affirms that they are correct.

With a view to make his humble production more interesting, he has ventured to publish several sketches, which he had an opportunity of taking during the time that the *Isabella* was detained in Torres' Straits.

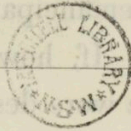
The reader will bear in mind that the

Charles Eaton was lost in Torres' Straits on the 29th of July, 1834, and that the Isabella Colonial Schooner, was sent, by His Excellency Sir Richard Bourke, with the humane intention of rendering assistance to the survivors of the wreck.



NARRATIVE,

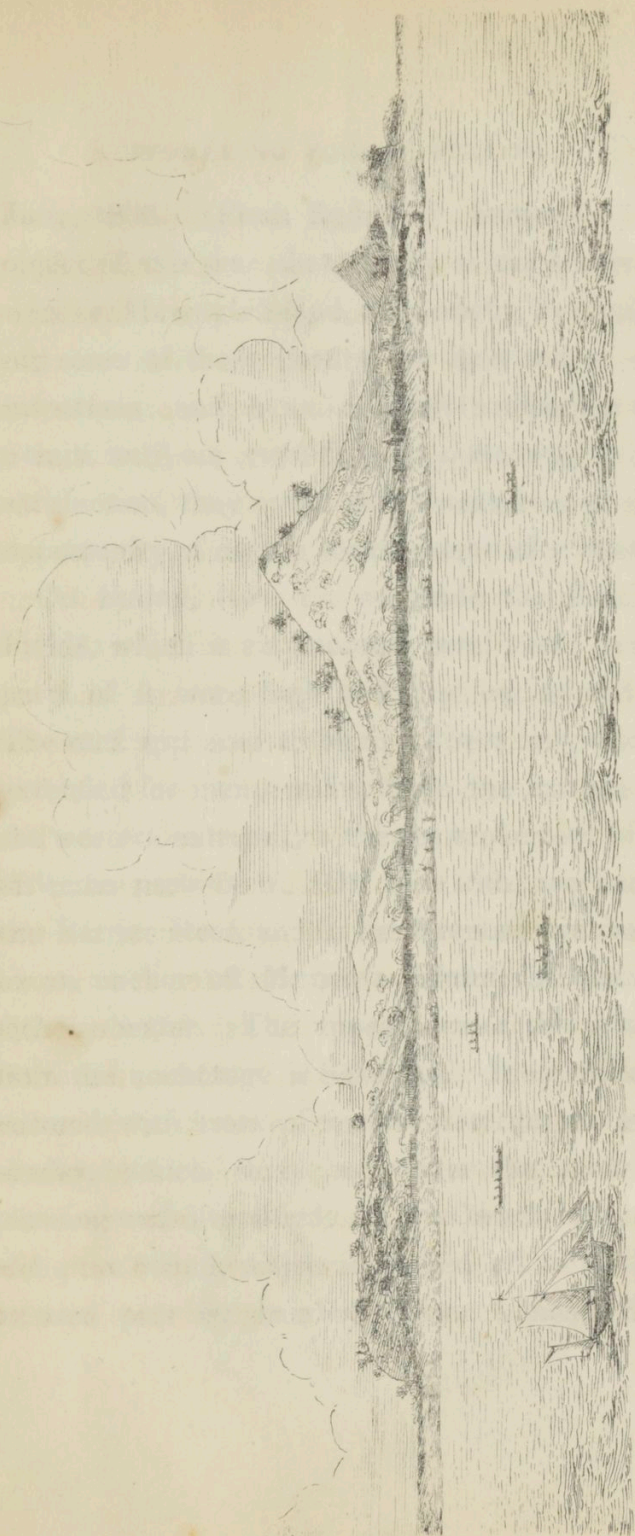
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ON the 25th of May, 1836, I shipped in His Majesty's Colonial Schooner *Isabella*, which vessel was about to proceed on an expedition to Torres' Straits, under the direction of Mr. C. M. Lewis. On Friday, June 3, after all the stores, ammunition, &c., had been received on board, we sailed for Torres' Straits with the view of obtaining, if possible, the survivors of the wreck of the *Barque Charles Eaton*. The plan which was considered the best adapted to rescue our countrymen from the bonds of slavery, was to bring up with a few hands on deck, and to make no display of guns or other fire arms. This prudent measure was adopted partly for

the purpose of reconciling the natives to us, and partly to restrain the seamen, who might be on the shore, from any act which would endanger their lives, and cause them to become a sacrifice to the natives. The Captain had received orders to treat the natives with great lenity, and to barter goods for the emancipation of our unfortunate countrymen. If, however, they should prove inexorable, we were desired to avail ourselves of other means, and accordingly the *Isabella* was well armed and manned, and had every thing on board requisite to ensure the success of the expedition.

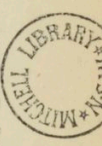
On Thursday, the 9th, we were in the latitude of Cato's Reef; and on Wednesday, the 15th, we passed two pieces of wreck, the first of which was evidently the keel of a vessel, for the floor timbers could be distinctly seen sticking out of the water. About this time the Captain ordered me to mark some bottles with the following inscription:—"C. M. Lewis, Commander of His Majesty's Schooner *Isabella*, is despatched by Government to obtain the people who were lost in the *Charles Eaton*;



Drawn & Engraved by W.H.F. Perry

MURRAY'S ISLAND, BEARING S.S.E.

Printed by J.G. Austlin & Co. 207 1/2 Bridge Street Sydney

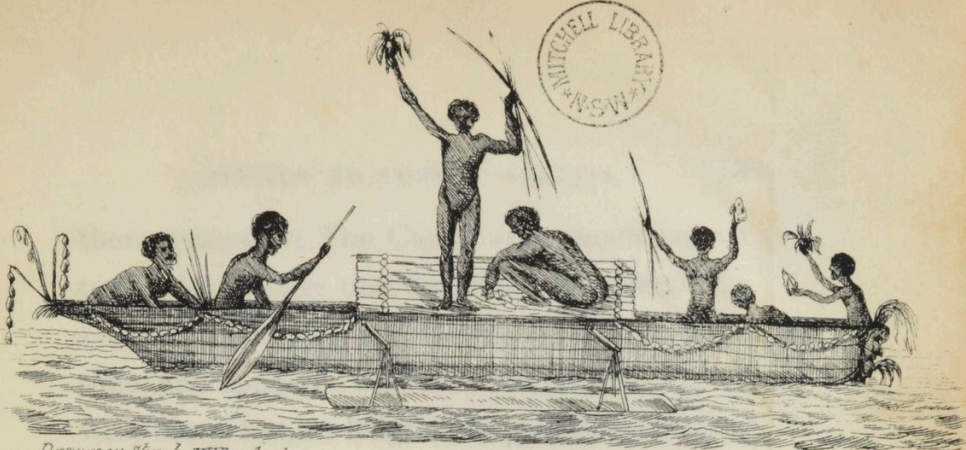
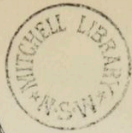


WILHELM VON HUMBOLDT

June, 1836. (From Sydney.) Secret." The object of this was that, if any of the survivors were on Murray's Island, they might, by obtaining some of these bottles, be apprized of our intentions; and, as we intended to remain in the Straits until we could discover something to our satisfaction, they could avail themselves of any opportunity of escape which might offer itself.

On Friday, June 17, we made the Eastern Fields, which is an immense coral reef; some parts of it were high and dry out of water. The reef appeared to be in a direct line, which extended for many miles, from the eastern to the western extremity: the sea broke very high on some parts of it. On the 18th, we made the Barrier Reef, and in the forenoon we came to an anchor off Murray's Island, in twenty fathoms water. The appearance of the island from the anchorage is beautiful. It is thickly covered with trees of various descriptions and shades, which serve to render the scenery pleasing and diversified. A fine beach extends along the island, which is staked off from the wooded part by bamboo sticks: these the

natives, who are a fine race of people, well-proportioned, and most of them comely in appearance, ornament with various kinds of shells. They pretended to be very friendly, but after the numerous murders which they have committed from time to time, we did not think it prudent to place any confidence in them. They came off to the vessel in canoes of forty or fifty feet in length (see Plate I. Fig. 1.) There is a large platform a-midships, upon which they carry their articles of trade. Those who pull stand in the fore and after parts of the canoe. Their paddles are quite plain, which is rather to be wondered at, as they are generally so fond of carving the different things in their possession. The canoes do not sail nor pull so well as a boat, because they are built too square at the head; and a kind of mat, which hangs over the bows, considerably impedes their progress. The head and the stern of the canoes are ornamented with shells and feathers. When the natives came off to the vessel, we made signs to them to know if there were any white men on the island; upon which they signified to us that



Drawn on Stone by WELFerryhough

CANOE.



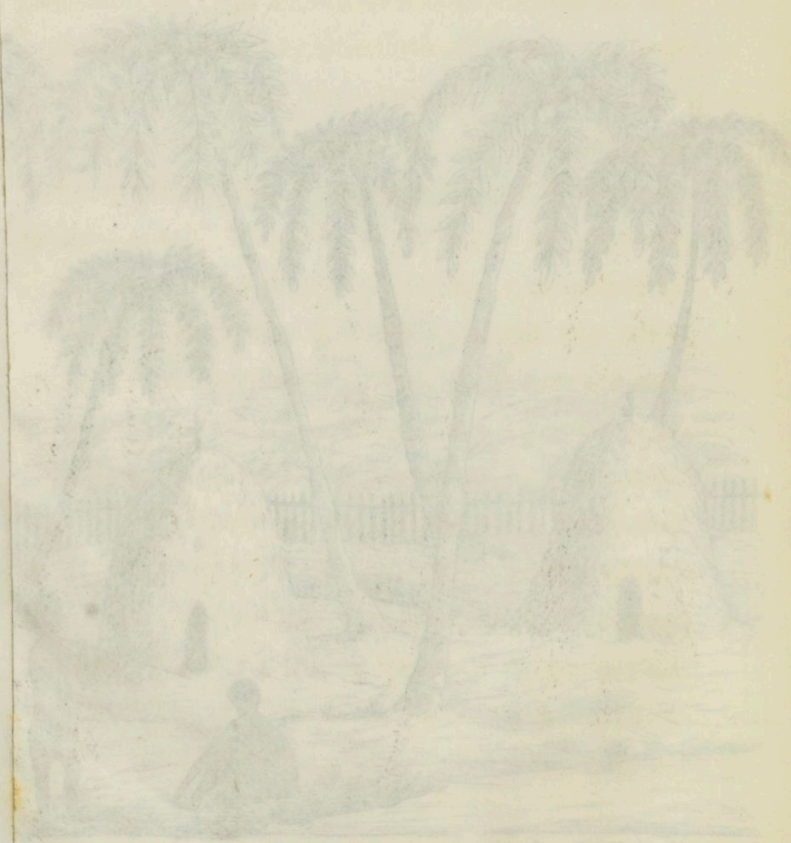
Drawn on Stone by WELFerryhough

NATIVE'S HUTS.

Printed by J. G. Austin & Co. No. 12, Bridge Street Sydney.



CANOE



NATIVE'S HUTS

there was one. The Captain then made known to them his desire that the white man should be brought off the island. They hesitated for some time, and appeared as if they did not like to part with him; but, at length, we perceived a canoe coming towards the vessel with a white boy sitting on the platform with some of the natives. As the canoe approached us, the unfortunate boy exhibited the mingled emotions of fear and delight. The Captain ordered silence, and there was not a single word spoken either by the seamen or the natives. There was a dead silence, and it was to all of us a moment of anxiety—each of us appearing to listen with the greatest attention. The Captain asked the boy in what ship he had been wrecked? to which he replied, in the *Charles Eaton*: and upon being asked how many more were upon the island, he answered there was only a child about four or five years old. It may well be supposed that a spirit of horror was excited in our breasts, when the boy informed us, that all the rest of the white people, with the exception of the few seamen who had escaped to Batavia

in an open boat, were either drowned or murdered. He told us that they were murdered on an island which the natives call Boydany: this island has no English name. The boy appeared almost stupified, arising, I should imagine, either from fear of the natives, or from overjoy at his emancipation. The Captain told the boy to step forward in the canoe, with which request he immediately complied; but it was evident that the natives wanted a ransom, as they held him for a time. They gave him up, however, for some tomahawks. The Captain allowed them to trade a little with us, after he had obtained the boys.

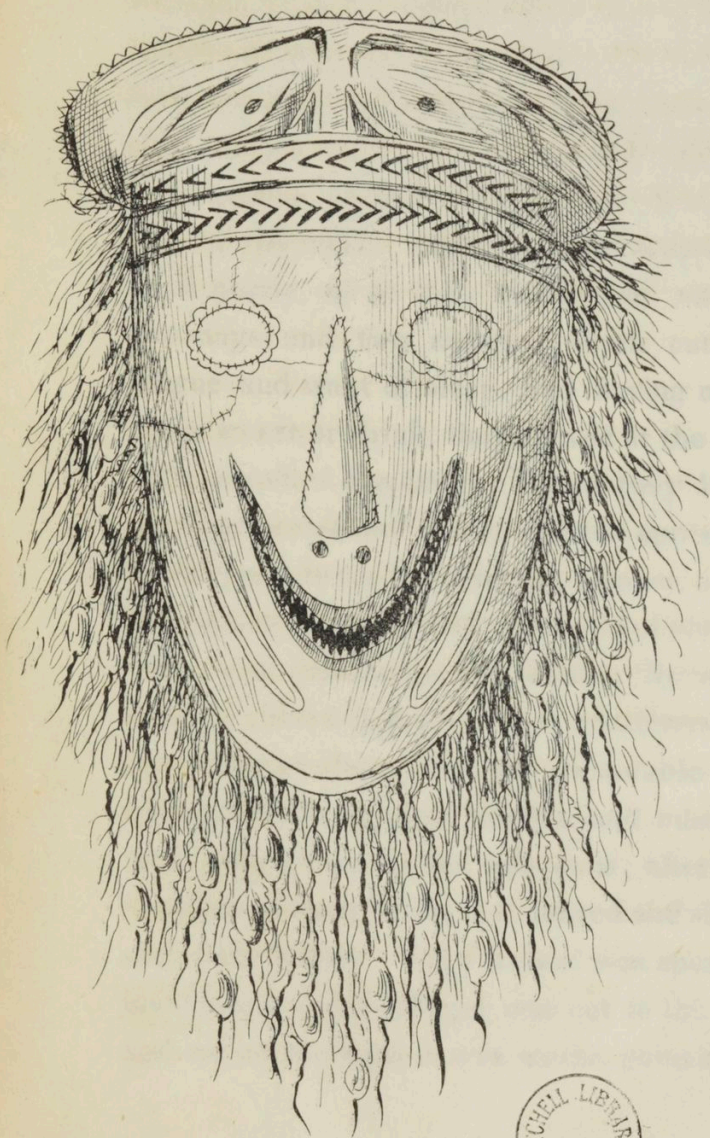
The name of the older boy is John Ireland; he was assistant steward on board the Charles Eaton. The young child is named William D'Oyley; he was son of Captain D'Oyley, who was going to join his regiment in India. The older boy informed me that William D'Oyley was snatched from his mother's arms, and that they killed her in a brutal manner. The natives of Murray's Island seemed to be very partial to the child, and when the Captain told the older

boy to bring him off in one of their canoes, they said that he was crying, and would not leave the black woman, who had charge of him. They made other excuses of a similar description before they allowed the child to depart. At last they were persuaded to bring him off. On coming alongside, he appeared much burnt with the sun; he could not speak a single word of English, but he spoke the native language with fluency. The natives had not disfigured the boys in the least degree—a circumstance which may be deemed extraordinary. The little boy cried bitterly on being given up by the natives; I dare say he thought that he had fallen into bad hands. He soon, however, forgot his black companions, and became, perhaps, more partial to us than he had ever been to them. In a short time he began to run about the decks, and appeared quite cheerful and contented. It was astonishing to hear him, describing, as we imagined, some of the events that happened after the vessel was wrecked. He either recollected the murder of the people, or else John Ireland had told him of it, when on the island,

for he would sit beside the sailors, and relate various things to them in the native language, at the same time making signs, and describing the manner in which they had been massacred. Both of the boys had several sores upon them on different parts of their bodies. The natives of the islands in the Straits are very subject to sores and cancers.

The statement of the older boy, respecting the melancholy wreck and massacre is as follows:—The unfortunate people, after remaining a fortnight on the wreck, escaped on two rafts; but it was only to suffer a more dreadful death than that of drowning. On the first raft* there were nine, and on the second, seventeen. They were upon the short allowance of two glasses of water, and half a biscuit a day; such was their miserable condition! The people, who arrived

* On the first raft were the Captain, Captain D'Oyley, Mrs. D'Oyley, and her two children, one native Bengal servant, Mr. Armstrong, the Steward, and Mr. Grant, the Doctor. The other raft was committed to the charge of Mr. Clare, the first, and Mr. W. Mayor, the second officer, and carried the crew. One seaman was drowned.



Drawn on Stone by W.H. Fernyhough.



Printed by J.G. Austin & Co. No. 12 Bridge Street Sydney

on the first raft, with the exception of William D'Oyley, were all massacred; and those on the second, experienced a similar fate, excepting John Ireland who was preserved by the natives. One of the seamen met a watery grave—he was washed off the wreck before the people left on the rafts. Those on the second raft, were nearly up to their middles in water for two days and two nights. Worn out with fatigue and want of sleep, and having nothing either to eat or drink, they arrived at the detestable island of Boydany. When they landed, the treacherous and brutal savages appeared to be disposed to act in a friendly manner, and accompanied them under the pretence of obtaining water and provisions for them. No sooner, however, had the shipwrecked wanderers fallen into a sound sleep, than the inexorable brutes fell upon their helpless victims, and massacred them with spears, knives, and clubs; after which they cut off their heads, and danced and shouted over their bodies. John Ireland was speared in his left side, his forefinger was cut to the bone, and one of the natives was on the point of cut-

ting his throat with an English knife, but he escaped miraculously from the savage. What the feelings of the unfortunate boy were at such an awful moment, it is easier to imagine than describe. He had witnessed the murder of his countrymen one after another in a most brutal manner, and he himself had nearly experienced the same fate. His long residence amongst the natives, and the dangers to which he was constantly exposed, must have preyed upon his mind; whilst the fate to which his companions had been subjected, led him, no doubt, to anticipate similar treatment. It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that he was in such a pitiable condition when he was recovered from the hands of the natives. Of the five seamen* who escaped to Timorlaut in the boat, he states that they kept away before the wind, and refused to take five of their shipmates who went towards the boat on the reef. This apparent cruelty was rendered necessary by the peculiar

* Their names were George Piggott, boatswain; Lawrence Constantine, carpenter; Richard Quin, William Frendall, and Joseph Wright, seamen.

circumstances of the case ; for had they endeavoured to take them away, the boat would have been unable to pursue her course.

The following is the statement* which the seamen gave of the wreck. The Barque Charles Eaton, commanded by G. F. Moore, left Sydney, July 29, 1834, and on August 15, following, at eight A. M., as she was making for an apparent opening in the reef near Sir Charles Hardy's Islands (Torres' Straits,) breakers were seen a-head; in consequence of which an attempt was made to tack, but the vessel would not stay. Both anchors were let go immediately, and they came home close to the reef; upon which she fell broadside on, the sea making a clean breach over her. The long boat, and one of the quarter boats were stove. The remaining boat was lowered, and three seamen jumped into her. The Captain and officers determined to continue in the ship, as they thought that the boat would not live. It was, also stated that they remained two days under the lee of the reef. John Ireland

* Part of this statement appeared in one of the Sydney papers.

however says, that they pulled away immediately. The rest of the crew and the passengers went on the poop. After a run of five days the boat made the east side of Timorlaut. On landing, they were stripped of every thing by the natives, and they were led to expect the most inhuman treatment from them, in consequence of their horrible gestures. An old chief arrived just in time to save them from destruction, he took them under his protection, and treated them kindly. After a constrained residence of twelve months, they were allowed to leave Timorlaut in a proa bound to Amboyna and from thence to Batavia. During their residence at Timorlaut, they learned that a vessel had been lost in some part of the Straits about six years ago, and that the whole of the crew, with the exception of two boys, was massacred. One of the boys died. The other reconciled himself to the manners and customs of the natives, and became a favorite with them. He is supposed to be still living there, without any desire to return to his native land.

The names of the passengers on board the

PLATE II.

Fig 1.



Fig 2.

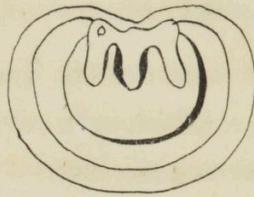


Fig 5.

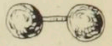


Fig 6.

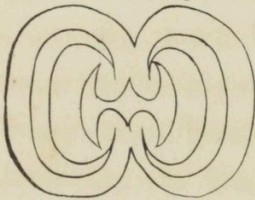


Fig 7.

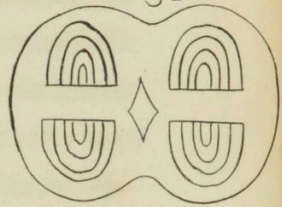


Fig 3.



Fig 4.

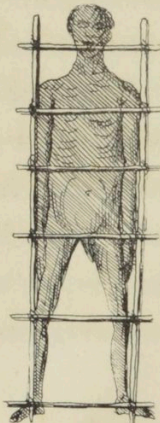


Fig 8.

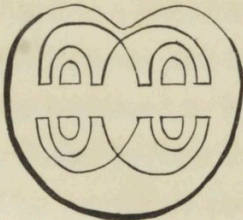
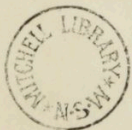


Fig 9.



Drawn on Stone by W H Ferryhough

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Charles Eaton, were Captain D'Oyley, his wife and two children (one of whom we received from Murray's Island), Mr. Armstrong, a young man of twenty-five years of age, and a Bengal native servant in attendance upon Mrs. D'Oyley. These, together with the Captain, officers, and crew, amounted to twenty-six, of which number the two boys whom we obtained from Murray's Island, and the five seamen who escaped to Timorlaut in an open boat and subsequently to Batavia, were the only persons saved from the wreck.

John Ireland states that the savages on Boydany Island eat the eyes and cheeks of the shipwrecked people belonging to the Charles Eaton. This they were induced to do from a peculiar notion which they entertain, that such conduct will increase their desire after the blood of white men.

The natives of Murray's Island, as I mentioned before, are stout and well proportioned. Their ears are extended beyond their usual length, (see Plate II., Fig. 5.), and the cartilage of their nose is perforated. They sometimes

wear ornaments through their noses, and on their ancles, wrists, arms, and necks, especially on feast-days. Some of them have their shoulders marked, (see Plate II., Fig. 2, 6, 7, 8, 9.) The marks are produced by deep incisions, which are filled with sand. They do not appear to have much idea of music: a kind of drum to the sound of which they dance, is their principal musical instrument. I obtained a curious instrument made of bamboo which had a tongue in it, and a string fastened to the back, (see Plate III., Fig. 4.) John Ireland told me that it had been brought from New Guinea. We witnessed an exhibition of their dancing one day on shore: their gestures are anything but graceful. Their manner of smoking is curious. The pipes, which they use, are made of a piece of bamboo about two feet and a half in length, and about eight inches in circumference, (see Plate III., Fig. 1, 2, 3.) This is carved at the top with a hole similar to the mouth hole of a flute. They fit a tube into the hole, and draw the smoke into the bamboo, after which, they unship the tube, and draw the smoke out of the hole. They swallow the

Fig. 3.



Fig. 2.

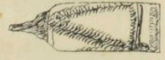


Fig. 1.

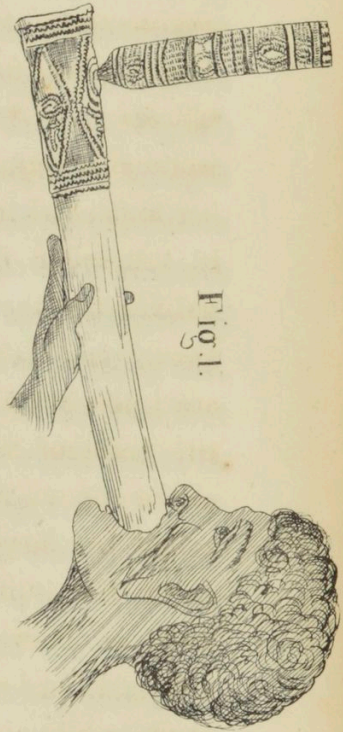


Fig. 4.

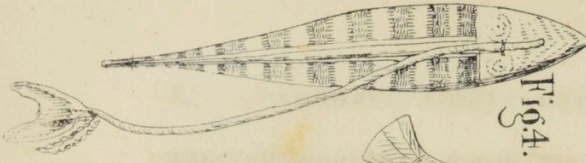


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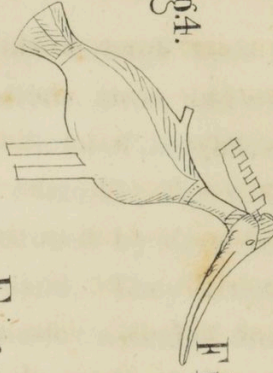


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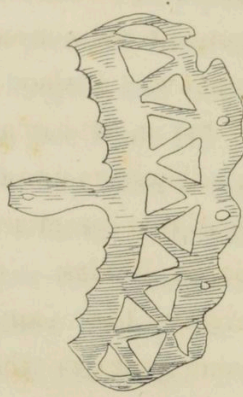


Fig. 7.

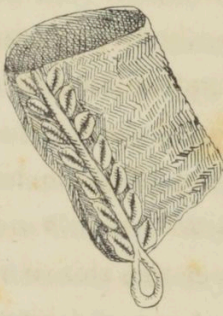
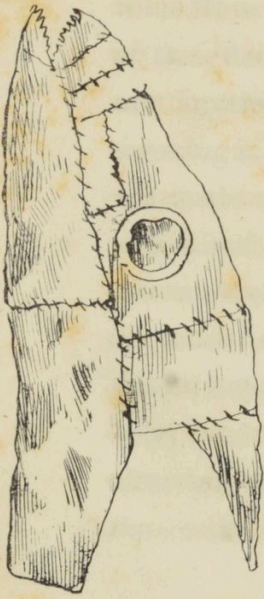


Fig. 8.

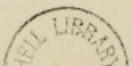


Fig. 9.



Drawn Stone by WHFerryhough.

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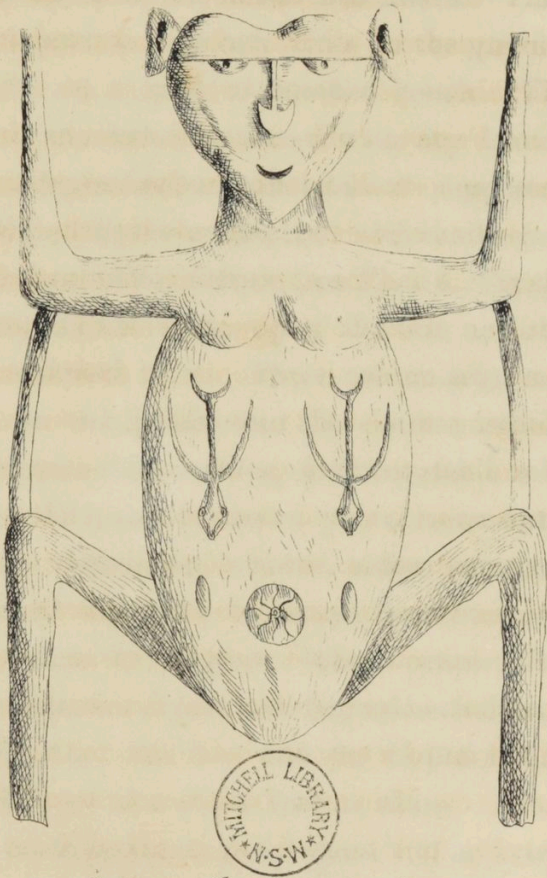


smoke. Before and after smoking, they pronounce the words:—*Sips, sips, sips, buggeree mess, buggeree mess.* After their tobacco is dried, they plait it like the three yarn sennet. Negrohead tobacco is held in great esteem by them: it is, therefore, one of the best articles of trade to those islands. The native name for tobacco is *soogoob*, and they call the pipe-stem *soogoob-mar*. It was highly amusing to see the different uses to which they applied the English articles. One, I recollect, converted an old worsted stocking into a cap for the head, fancying himself, I have no doubt, very handsome in it. A sailor obtained several things from the natives for the sleeve of an old blue flannel shirt; and I got some curiosities for an old steel pen, which one of them intended to use as the point of an arrow. I also obtained some shells for an old brace, which a native bound round his head. Their manner of fishing is much the same as that practised by the natives of New South Wales. One party is engaged in driving the fish towards the shore, while another waits on the beach; and,

as soon as the fish are near enough to the shore, the latter party dart into the water, and bring them up on the end of a spear. The instruments of war are spears of various kinds, swords made of a hard wood, bows and arrows, and clubs.

On Friday, June 24, the launch went on shore to a small island in the neighbourhood of Murray's Island, called by the natives, Wyer. It has the appearance of a ruined fortification. The Captain intended to search the island, in order, if possible, to find something belonging to the Charles Eaton. On landing, he walked towards a hut, and entered it in company with one of the sailors. In the inside they perceived a string of skulls, hanging up. Various conjectures were made concerning the skulls, but no satisfactory conclusion could be arrived at. John Ireland says, that the natives did not murder any one belonging to the Charles Eaton, on Murray's Island, and that William D'Oyley and himself were taken from Boydayny by the natives of the former island. The houses of the natives are something in the form

PLATEXI.



Drawn on Stone by W.H. Ferryhough.

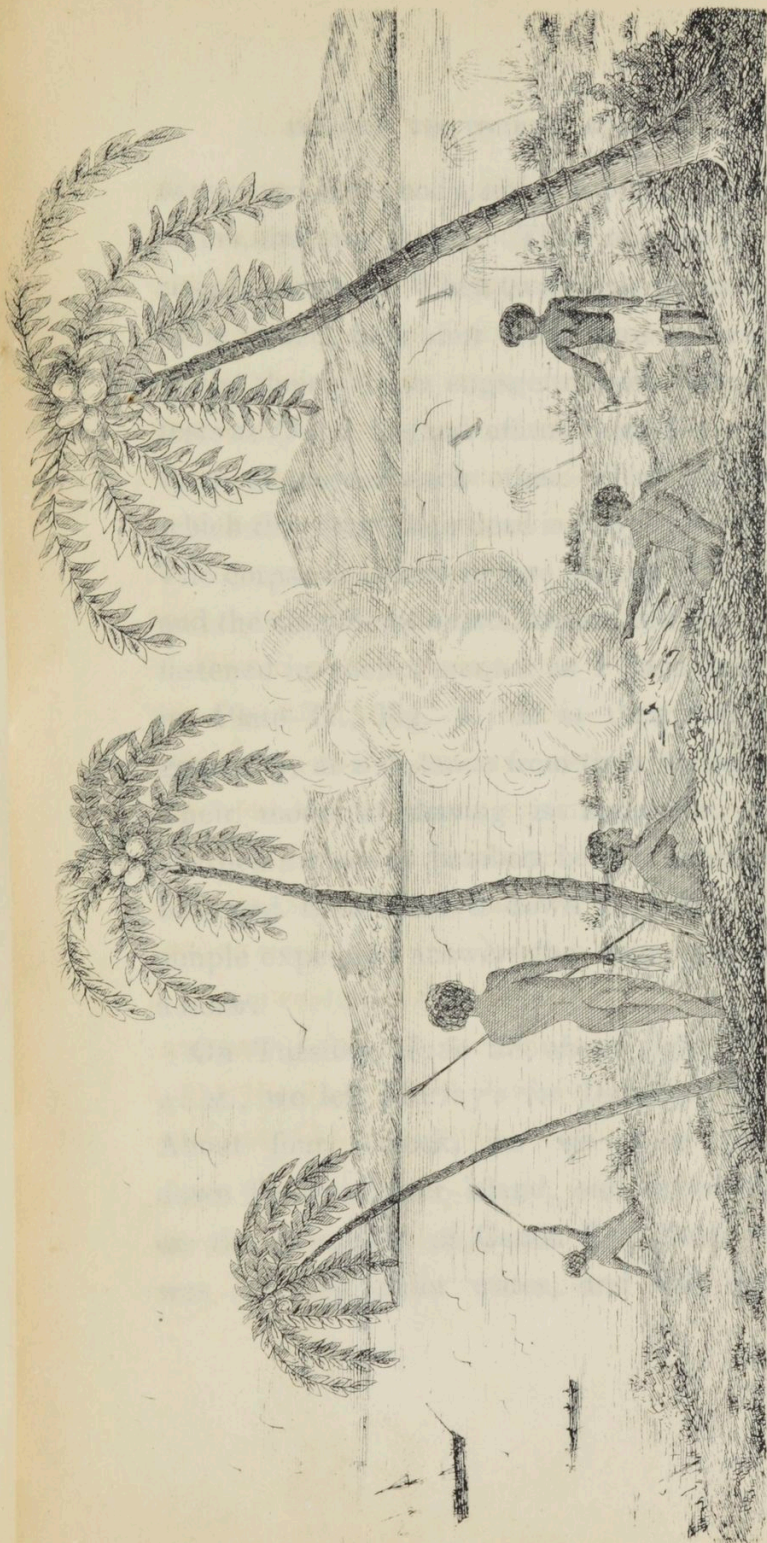
Printed by J.G. Austin & Co. N. 12 Bridge Street Sydney

of a bee-hive, with a hole at the base about two feet and a half in height, which serves for an entrance. If any one wishes to enter, he must creep in on his hands and knees. They do not appear to have any mats on the ground, but sleep on a kind of bamboo couch. The outside of the huts is covered with dry leaves, and a perpendicular stanchion or supporter, which is sometimes ornamented with shells, goes through the middle of them, (see Plate I., Fig. 2.) This projects above the top of the hut, and the roof is fastened to it. There are no pigs nor poultry on the island, and the natives subsist entirely upon fish, turtles, and vegetable substances. The soil produces yams, cocoa-nuts, plantains, sugar-cane, tobacco, native potatoes, and several fruits which, as yet, have received no name from the English. These people, like most savages, are expert in diving and swimming.

On Sunday, the boy told the Captain that there was part of a ship's boat on shore. After our two boats had been away about half an hour, some of the sailors obtained a piece of the stern of a boat, with a copper ringbolt in it.

In some of the huts, we saw the skins of hands which were hanging up: these the natives wear as ornaments on days of rejoicing. The women on Murray's Island appeared to be inferior to the men, both in personal beauty, and in the symmetry of their parts.* The men are, certainly, a fine-looking race of people. Dup-pah, the black who adopted the child, behaved remarkably well to the boys whilst they were on the island. It is a matter to be deplored, that people, such as the natives of the islands in Torres' Straits, who are endowed with so many natural advantages, should be so cruel and treacherous. Perhaps the ferocity of their dispositions may, in some degree, be attributed to the superstition which is prevalent amongst them. Among many of their ridiculous notions which might be adduced, that of swinging a stone, in order to influence the wind, and produce, according to their pleasure, a calm or a tempest—and that of pointing with a sharp bone

* The order of things seems to be somewhat reversed in these islands, for the women shave their heads, leaving only a small tuft of hair on the top.



NATIVES OF MURRAY'S ISLAND

Printed by J. A. Hudson & Co. 117, Bridge Street, Sydney.

W. H. Ferryman

to any part of the body, either to cure, or to create ulcers, are remarkable. Their manner of marriage is curious. When two young persons wish to be united, they shut themselves up in a hut, whilst their parents engage in such severe contests as (John Ireland affirms) sometimes cause them to murder each other. The manner in which they bury their dead is also extraordinary. The corpse is lashed to two pieces of bamboo, and the shoulders, wrists, knees, and ancles, are fastened in such a manner as I have described in Plate II., Fig. 4. It is then hung up, generally, at a distance from their settlements. Their mode of shaving is ingenious. They sharpen a piece of bamboo, bend it nearly double, and then draw it down their face: this simple expedient answers the same purpose as a razor.

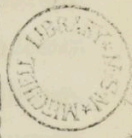
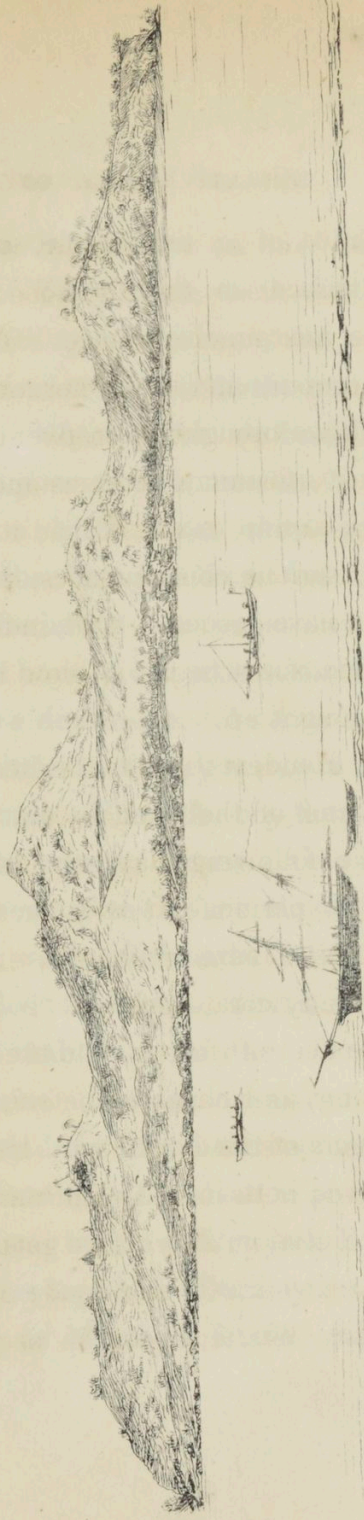
On Tuesday, June 28, about eight o'clock, A. M., we left Murray's for Darnley's Island. About four o'clock, as we were running down for the latter island, our vessel struck on the extremity of Canoe Key Reef, which was six feet under water, and had the ap-

pearance of a tide ripple, several of which we passed in the forenoon. She did not strike with much violence. We got the stream anchor out, and hove her off the reef, after which we brought up in twenty fathoms water. It was a fortunate circumstance that the vessel struck in fine weather: had it happened otherwise, serious consequences, in all probability, would have ensued. And, indeed, we narrowly escaped, for it began to blow hard shortly after we brought up.

On Monday, July 4, it lulled a little, and we hove one of the anchors up, intending to sail on the following day, should the wind and weather permit. It was far from pleasant to ride out a breeze of wind in the neighbourhood of so many coral reefs.

The heat of the sun, and the different manner of living, as I observed before, had injured the intellects of the older boy. He, however, daily improved both in body and mind.

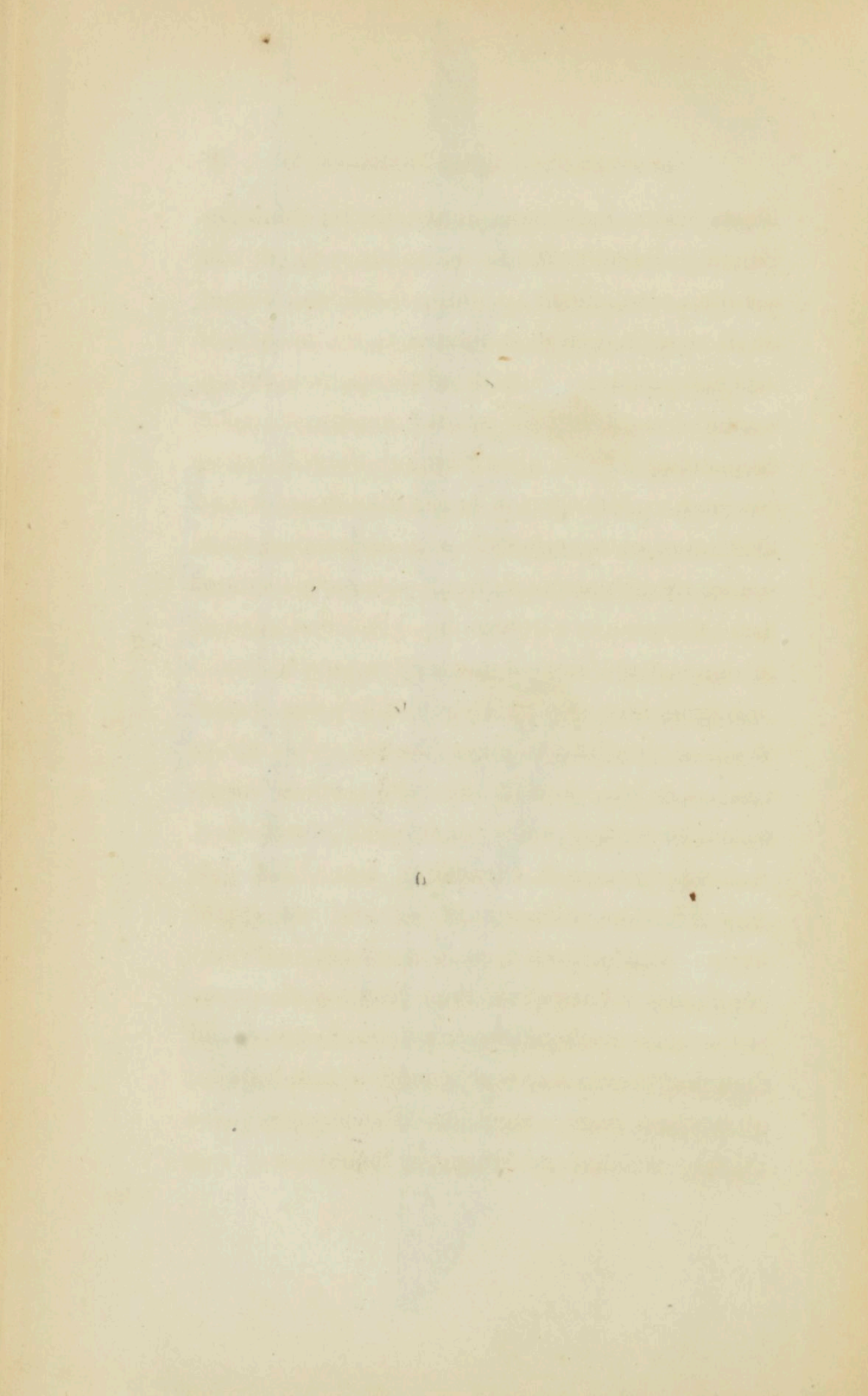
On Tuesday, July 5, we got under weigh from Canoe Key Reef, and made sail for Darnley's Island. We anchored in seventeen fathoms.



DARNLEY'S ISLAND.

Printed by J. G. Assesten & Co. No. 12 Bridge Street Sydney

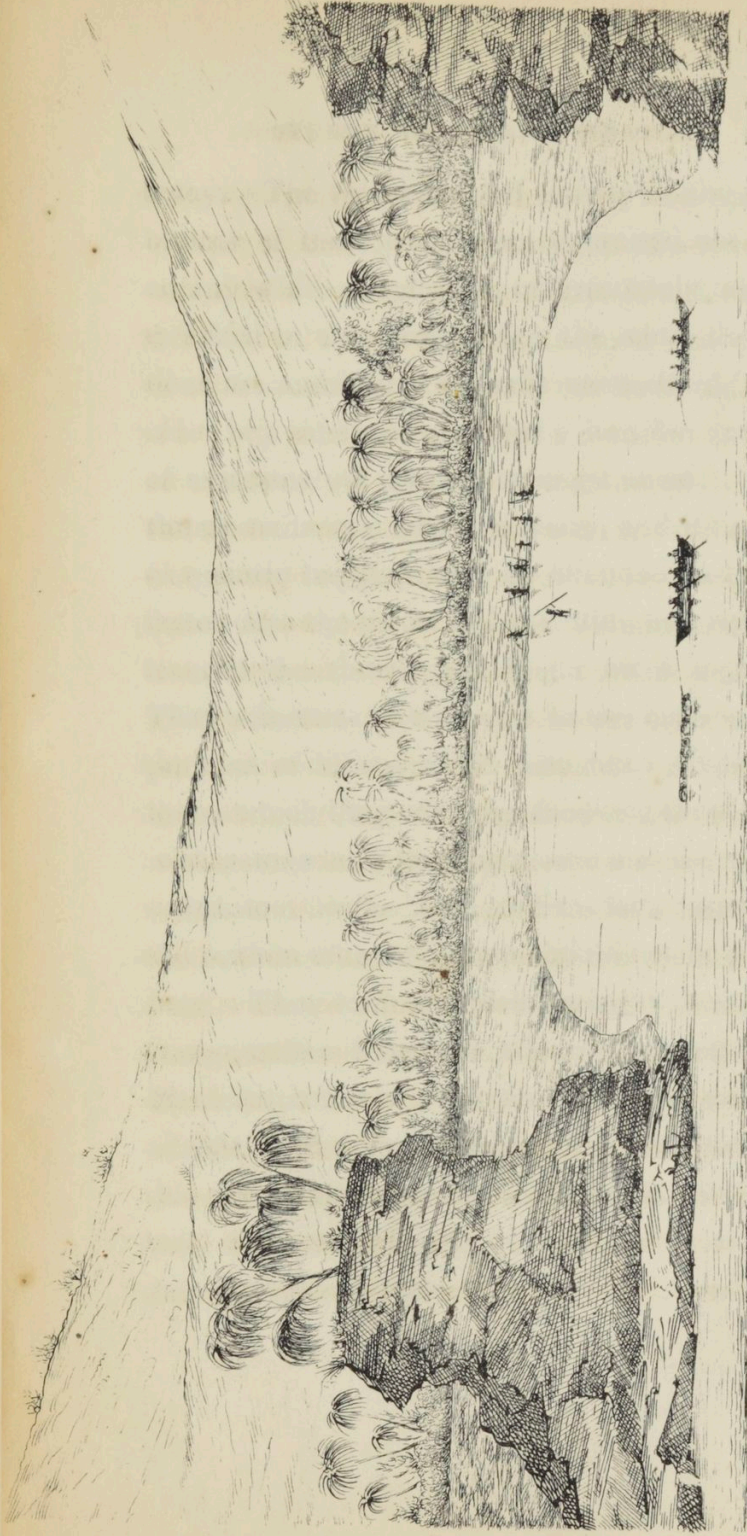
Drawn on Stone by W. H. Ferryhough



There were more inhabitants on this, than on Murray's Island. They mark their shoulders, perforate the cartilage of the nose, and extend their ears, in a similar manner to the natives of Murray's Island. Shortly after we brought up, a canoe, with ten or twelve men in it, came alongside. In a little time, they became alarmed. Whether it arose from fear of our fire arms, or whether it was occasioned from seeing the white boys in our possession, I must leave for others to determine. As soon as they recognised the little boy, they set up a shout, calling him by name. The older boy they called Wawkai, and the younger Fwass. One of the natives in the bow of the canoe shook hands with the child, and afterwards, either from real or pretended friendship, kissed his own fingers. The inhabitants of the islands in Torres' Straits have a curious manner of shaking hands. They draw their hands across those of the person whom they are about to greet, and then pull them away with a sudden jerk, hooking each others fingers together. Darnley's is not so thickly wooded as Murray's Island, and it is

interspersed with hills and valley, which give it a pleasing appearance. The watering place at this island is a kind of lagoon, which evidently has been enlarged by some one. It is probable that the natives have done this, in order to preserve a supply of water in dry weather. The water is better in rainy weather, as it then fills the reservoir, and the clear water can be taken from the top. The natives appeared to be more friendly every day, but, as so many instances of their treachery have occurred, we were always armed when we went on shore. I cannot help thinking that their friendship towards us was occasioned principally by the fear of the fire arms which we had in our possession.

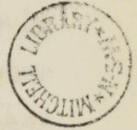
On the 17th of July, we sailed from Darnley's Island, but, after we had gone a few miles from land, the weather became so thick and hazy, that the Captain ordered the schooner to be put about, and stood in again for the land. We anchored at about eleven o'clock, A. M. In the afternoon, two boats, well armed and manned, were sent on shore. The natives said that they were tired of us, and wished us to go



Drawn on Stone by W.H. Fernyough.

TREACHEROUS BAY, DARNLEY'S ISLAND.

Printed by J.C. Ruston & Co. No. 12. Bridge Street, Sydney.



The first part of the report is devoted to a general
 description of the country and its resources. It
 is followed by a detailed account of the
 various industries and occupations of the
 people. The third part of the report
 contains a list of the principal towns and
 villages, with a description of their
 buildings and other interesting features.
 The fourth part of the report is a
 list of the principal rivers and streams,
 with a description of their course and
 the nature of the soil through which they
 flow. The fifth part of the report is a
 list of the principal mountains and hills,
 with a description of their height and
 the nature of the soil upon which they
 stand. The sixth part of the report is a
 list of the principal lakes and ponds,
 with a description of their size and
 the nature of the soil upon which they
 stand. The seventh part of the report is a
 list of the principal forests, with a
 description of the various kinds of trees
 which grow in them. The eighth part of
 the report is a list of the principal
 minerals, with a description of their
 nature and the manner in which they are
 obtained. The ninth part of the report is a
 list of the principal animals, with a
 description of their habits and the manner
 in which they are used. The tenth part of
 the report is a list of the principal
 plants, with a description of their nature
 and the manner in which they are used.

away. The treachery and cruelty of the inhabitants of these islands are exercised not only on any white people who unfortunately may be wrecked in the Straits, but the same dispositions are manifested towards each other. The older boy informed me that a horrible manner of assassination prevails amongst them. Their thumb nails are long and sharp, and it not unfrequently happens that an offended party will fasten into the throat of his victim, and squeeze it until the thumb and finger meet together. They sometimes lie in wait in the bush for the purpose of killing those who have displeased them, which they effect by knocking them down with a stone, and pouring poison into the wound occasioned by it. One curious fact respecting the natives of these islands should not be passed over. They have no chiefs amongst them, and consequently they are all upon an equality. The inhabitants of New South Wales, and the islands of the South Seas, differ from them in this particular, although it must be confessed that, in some instances, the name of chief is only an empty title.

The manner in which the natives extend their ears, is by perforating and putting a piece of wood into them at an early age. This piece of wood is thin in the centre, and has balls at the extremities, (Plate II., Fig. 5.)

On Thursday, July 21, we again got under way from Darnley's Island. The course was about N. W. We then hauled up for a low woody island, surrounded with a deep sandy beach, under the lee of which we anchored in the afternoon. We brought up at another low woody island similar to the one just mentioned. The Captain ordered two whale boats to be armed and manned, in order to pull to windward with the intention of searching two islands which are called by the natives Masseed and Caddow. As soon as we arrived within a short distance of the island, the natives came down to the beach with branches and leaves in their hands. They offered us cocoa-nuts, shells, &c., and refused to take anything in return. They appeared to be very much alarmed. The older boy told the Captain that these people had some white men's skulls stowed away in

the bush ; they, however, denied the boy's statement, and appeared anxious to run away from us. The Captain said that he would fire upon them, if they attempted to escape ; but, nevertheless, they still seemed inclined to do so, and, in the end, ran away into the bush. We hauled the boat over a very broad flat, and started in chase of a canoe, but as it was too far distant to overtake it before dark, we made sail on the boats, and returned on board about nine, P. M.

On Monday, July 25, we anchored at an island called by the natives Aureed, and which Captain Lewis has named Skull Island. There were no natives on it at the time we landed. We went on shore in the afternoon to search the bush, as the boy was of opinion that the skulls of the murdered white people were on some of these islands. During our search we saw some native dogs.

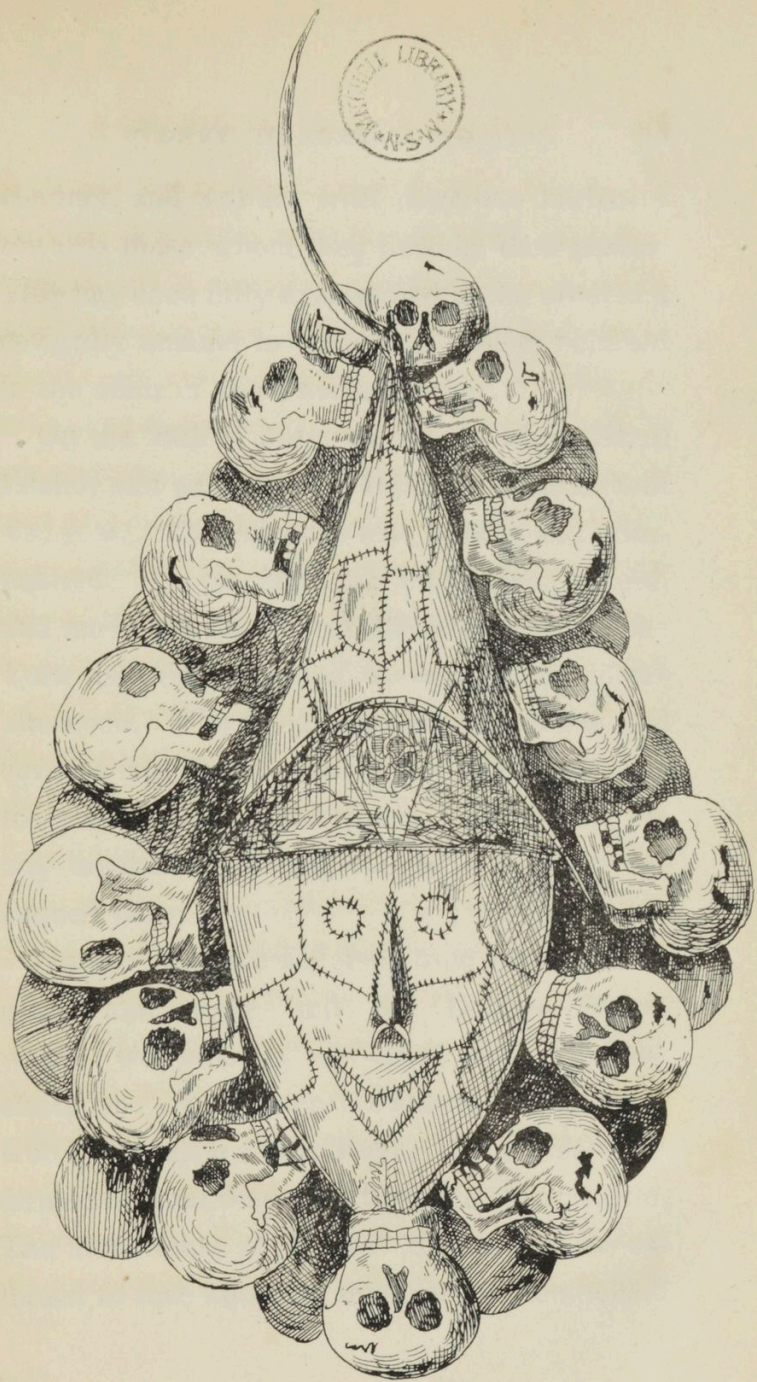
After we had been on the island about half an hour, we discovered a kind of avenue, lined on both sides with shells painted red, at the top of which there was a hut rather in a dilapidated

condition. On entering the hut we found, to our great astonishment, several skulls, fastened to a large tortoise-shell figure in the manner represented in the Plate. The boy said that the natives had a corrobory over the figure on feast days. Some of the skulls have marks of violence on them, and they are lashed to the figure with a piece of European rope ; so that there is every reason to conclude that some of them were sad relics of the unfortunate people who were shipwrecked in the Straits.

We went on shore the next day, and burnt the houses of the natives, and took away some things which they had concealed in different parts of the bush.

I have heard people say that they are not afraid to venture unarmed amongst the natives of Torres' Straits, because they consider them to be a harmless and inoffensive race of people. They certainly appear to be so at first sight, and if persons who go on shore be well armed, they will be friendly enough towards them. But woful experience has proved that, in other circumstances, they will pursue a different line of

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*Drawn on Stone by W H Ferryhough
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conduct, and will act with merciless barbarity towards those whom they have in their power. This has been fully exemplified in the cruel and cowardly manner in which the natives behaved in the affair of the Charles Eaton.

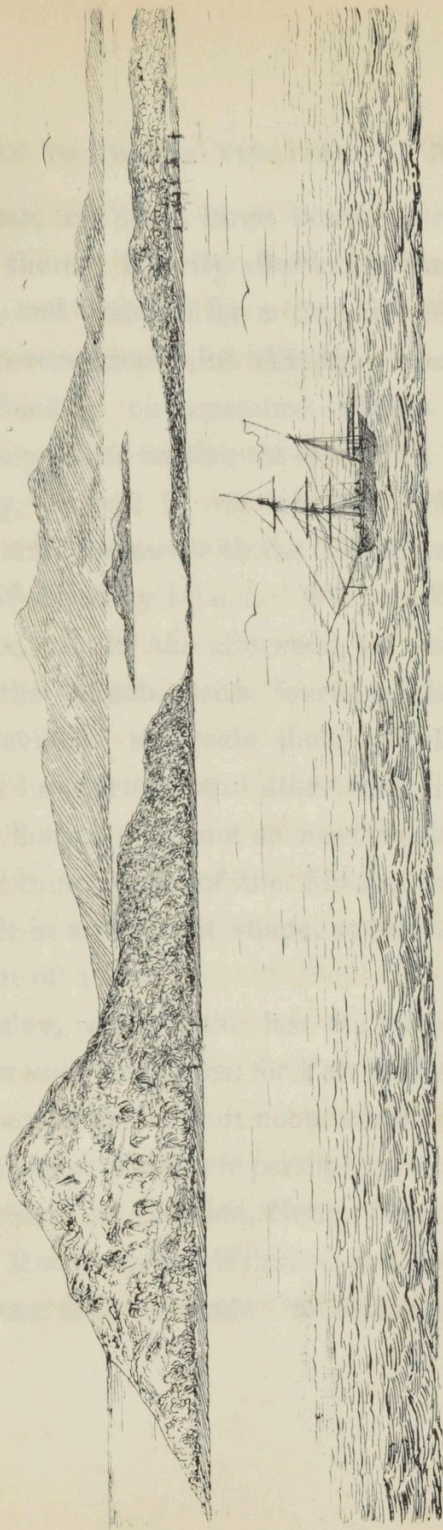
On the 26th of July, we weighed from Skull Island, and anchored at Halfway Island about six, P. M. This island is low, woody, and uninhabited. On the 29th, we left Halfway Island, and made sail for Mount Adolphus, one of the York Islands, at which we brought up in the afternoon. The top of the mountain is flat, and covered with bush. There is a large sandy flat towards one end of the island. We did not see any inhabitants during the time that we remained there.

On the 30th, we weighed from Mount Adolphus, and made sail for Double Island, where we brought up about three in the afternoon. There were six blacks on the island, who had a canoe on the beach. John Ireland informed me that they were trying to obtain turtle. The inhabitants of Torres' Straits are accustomed to rove about in their canoes from island

to island. During the period of his residence amongst them, he accompanied them to New Guinea. The natives, however, were afraid to land there, lest he should be taken away from them.

On the 31st, the Captain's boat was lowered to board a ship which hove in sight: it turned out to be the *Thomas Harrison*. I was told that the Hon. East India Company's Brig *Tigris*, was in the Straits, and that the Captain of her was anxious to obtain information respecting the expedition. We left the *Thomas Harrison*, and pulled away for the schooner, but the tide was so strong that we were unable to stem it. After pulling for about an hour and a half without making any way, we brought up. The *Tigris* came to anchor off Double Island, and sent a boat to board us. The Captain of her wished to take the little boy to Calcutta, to his grandfather, but in consequence of the command of His Excellency Sir Richard Bourke, Captain Lewis refused to comply with his request.

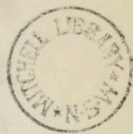
Two of the long-boat's crew, who had strayed



Drawn & Engraved by W.H. Furness, 1843.

DOUBLE ISLAND FROM THE ANCHORAGE.

Printed by J.G. Austin & Co. N^o 19, Ennage Street, Sydney.



away in the bush, eat some large beans which they gathered there. Shortly afterwards they were taken ill, and vomited for a considerable time: they recovered soon after that they came on board. Such a circumstance affords a useful lesson to persons visiting these islands.

On Tuesday, August 2, we weighed from Double Island, in company with the Tigris, and made sail for Wednesday Island. We brought up about ten, A. M. In the afternoon we went on shore in the launch, with fourteen men armed, and anchored alongside some of their canoes. They had tortoise and other shells for traffic. Their houses were not so neatly made as the huts in other parts of the Straits, and they were built in a different shape, somewhat resembling that of a tent.

On Wednesday, we left the last mentioned island, together with the Tigris, for Port Raffles. We passed Booby Island about noon, where we obtained information of the safe passage through the Straits of the ships Camden, Henry Tanner, Surry, Clyde, Recovery, and William Lockerby. On Saturday the 6th, we made Croker Island.

About seven, P. M., we heard a gun fired from the Tigris, and shortly after, five minute guns. Being certain that she was on shore, we tacked and stood towards her. As the Captain judged it expedient to bring up, and run down to the brig in the boats, we hoisted lights, fired a gun, let off a signal rocket, and proceeded towards her. When we got alongside, it was with difficulty that we could board her, as she was rolling so heavily. The gunner of the brig informed me that she struck very violently, and that the rudder had been carried away. They managed to back her off, made sail on her, and anchored under our quarter. In the morning we weighed for Raffles' Bay. In beating into the Bay, it was astonishing to see how well the brig worked without a rudder. As soon as the head sails were hauled down, and the fore and aft main sail set, she went round like a top. We landed for the purpose of getting some timber to make a rudder for the brig, and after having cut down some trees, which were hollow, we at length succeeded in procuring one that was tolerably good.

The settlement at Port Raffles has been

broken up long since, but the remains of the houses, which apparently have been burnt by the natives, are still visible. The water, that we obtained from a lagoon, was very good and clear. We saw only a few natives on shore, who, like the rest of their degenerate countrymen, were not in any way remarkable for the manliness of their form. The contrast between them and the inhabitants of the islands which we had recently left, was exceedingly striking. The one, amidst all their fury and barbarism, are possessed of good features; while the other are only characterized by the slender leg and thigh, and the general meanness of their appearance.

The harbour at Port Raffles is good and secure. The anchorage is in four fathoms and a half: the bottom is muddy, mixed with sand, and extremely regular. On Thursday, August 11, we had all our wood and water on board, and were ready to proceed to sea, but the Captain waited in order to go in company with the Tigris. On the 12th, some of the boat's crew saw several large animals on the beach, about

fifteen feet long, which they supposed to be alligators. As soon as the men went towards them, they made for the water. On the 13th, the larboard whale boat was sent on shore to fill a cask of water, and, what was rather unusual with us, we neglected to take any fire arms. When we beached the boat, four of the crew went to the lagoon for the water, leaving me with the boat. As soon as the seamen had gone away, a great many natives came down to the boat, and began to overhaul her to see if there were any fire arms in her. They appeared quite bold when they perceived that there were none. On former occasions, they had not manifested any quarrelsome disposition towards us, because we had always been well armed. After we had rafted the cask, we waited for the crew of the brig's jolly boat, to inform them of the manner in which the natives were acting. When the jolly boat was beached, the gunner desired the two boys who were in her, to go to the lagoon and wash their clothes. The natives then left the boats, and went in the same direction. We accompanied the boys at

the request of the Gunner, while he went to borrow a fowling piece from the Lieutenant, who was in the pinnace. The natives, some of whom had spears, now held a consultation at the lagoon. It is certain that they might have killed us all, for we had only a boat-hook and a paddle, and were, consequently, incapable of making any resistance. A black tried to take a silk handkerchief from the neck of one of the boys, but we prevented him; upon which he approached me and took a stick out of my hand, because I showed some marks of dissatisfaction at his conduct towards the boys. One of the seamen told me to blow the key of my chest, with the view of making the blacks suppose that there were more white people in the bush, who would come to our assistance. His advice had the desired effect. The natives ran towards the clothes which were drying in the bush, snatched them up, and went away in the greatest precipitation. The same natives who acted towards us in this suspicious manner, had been on board the vessel the day before, and then pretended to be on the most

friendly terms with us. We gave them plenty of food to eat, and sent them away, as we supposed, well pleased. Such conduct serves to show their treachery when they can get white people into their power. The surest way is to act in the most cautious manner towards them, and to trust them in nothing, for if persons do so, they will certainly be deceived.

On Monday, the 15th, the brig's launch was sent on shore for wood and water, and we went on board to assist in hanging the rudder. They had only one pintle and one gudgeon, the rest having been carried away. The plan adopted by the Captain was, to fix the remaining pintle and gudgeon on the upper part of the main piece of the rudder. Two bolts were fixed on the stern post, and another in the main piece of the rudder: one was, likewise, shoved through the three eye bolts. The lower part of the rudder was bound to the stern post with chains, leading into the main chains, and set up with dead eyes. The rudder answered very well, except that it prevented the brig from sailing so well as she had done previous to the accident.

Before I pass from this part of my narrative, it may be well to make some allusion to the abandonment of Raffles' Bay. The reasons generally assigned for such a proceeding, are, that the climate is injurious to European constitutions, and that the settlement is so far distant from any British colony, as to render the continuation of it an unnecessary expense to the Government. Whether such reasons are satisfactory or not, I do not deem myself competent to determine. It is, therefore, with much satisfaction that I am enabled to state the opinions of an intelligent gentleman, who has recently published a work, in which he alludes particularly to the subject. Dr. Wilson says, "That the alleged causes of abandonment were—1st, the unhealthiness of the climate; 2ndly, the hostility of the natives; and, 3rdly, the non-visitation of the Malays." It would occupy too great a space to give the whole of the arguments which Dr. Wilson adduces in refutation of these objections. I shall content myself, therefore, with extracting from that gentleman's book, the inferences which he draws from vari-

ous facts. "It will appear," says he, "sufficiently evident—1st, that the climate is not unhealthy; 2ndly, that the hostility of the natives was caused, or, at all events, aggravated, by the conduct of the settlers; and that as soon as conciliatory measures were adopted, these hostilities ceased; 3rdly, the Malays did visit Raffles' Bay in considerable numbers: and, had the settlement continued in existence a few months longer, not only the Malays, but also many Chinese, chiefly from Batavia, would have migrated thither."—*Dr. Wilson's Narrative*. Whether or not the hostilities on the part of the natives might have been obviated by the judicious conduct which Dr. W. recommends, I cannot say. No one, however, can deny the expediency of endeavouring to conciliate them in every manner possible. It should always be borne in mind, that they are a most ignorant and degenerate race of people, deserving our pity rather than our contempt. We should look, therefore, with a partial eye upon their faults, and endeavour, by kind and gentle treatment, to gain their affections.

On Wednesday, August 17, we weighed from Port Raffles, and made sail for Copang, Timor. On Tuesday, the 23rd, we were in latitude 10 deg. 25 min. North, and longitude 125 deg. 37 min. East; and, on the day following, we made the east side of Timor. About two, P. M., we made the island of Rottee. We passed through Samou Straits, and anchored in Copang Bay, about seven, P. M. There were preparations on shore for a ball, to which the captains and officers of the ships in harbour were invited. One of the Japan's boats, during the time she was lying in Copang Bay, was capsized in the surf and four men drowned: the remaining boats were lowered from the ship, but they were unable to render their comrades any assistance. If they had ventured into the surf they would have experienced a similar fate. The Tigris left Copang for Bombay, on Saturday, August 27.

The houses in Copang are clean, but not remarkable for any great beauty in the manner of their construction. I should imagine that the town is very insecure from the attacks of

the natives, for they are formidable on account of their being so well armed. Vessels which trade on the coast of Timor, generally give fire arms in exchange for the articles of the natives. Only a few black soldiers defend the town in time of war, who, perhaps, would join the natives if they commenced an attack upon the colonists. Two solitary mounted guns appear on the fort. There is a remarkable difference between the settlement at Copang, and the settlement in Australia. The former seem almost incompetent to protect the lives and properties of the inhabitants; while the latter can not only protect themselves, but can command the respect of the neighbouring islands. Great Britain has extended her conquests far and wide. What region is not full of her labours? She has been enabled not only to found colonies at the extremities of the earth, but she has fortified and established them by her sound policy and matchless valour.

There are a great number of shops in Copang principally belonging to the Chinese, who, it is said, are worth considerable sums of money,

It is no uncommon thing in Copang to see rich individuals from China, who reside in a miserable hovel not much superior to an English pig-sty. There is only one Englishman in that colony, but the Chinese are very numerous.

On Sunday, August 28, at eleven, P. M., we weighed from Copang Bay, and made sail for Sydney. Nothing particular occurred on our passage through the trades. On Thursday, September 29, we spoke the Eagle schooner, which had been five months from the Mauritius, and ten days from Swan River. On Wednesday, October 10, at six, A. M., we sighted King's Island, and, on the day following, Sir Roger Curtis' Islands distance about fifteen miles. On Tuesday the 10th, at eight, A. M., we made Sydney light, and on the following morning entered the Heads, after an absence of nearly four months and a half.

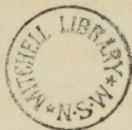
In concluding my humble narrative, I cannot do better than offer an apology for my presumption in appearing before the public as a writer. Little did I imagine when I trifled away a dull hour during the voyage in making observations

upon what was passing before me—little, indeed, did I imagine that I was about to submit them to the public. Nothing would have induced me to do so, but the persuasion of my friends. It is in compliance with their wishes alone, that I have consented to take such a formidable step, and they must be answerable for it.

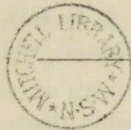
I cannot take credit to myself for any remarks which circumstances induced me to make upon the events of the expedition: I only regret that I did not make more. Had I anticipated that they were about to appear before an enlightened and discriminating public, I should have endeavoured to make them more worthy of attention than they at present can be.

Such as my narrative is, it is now before the public, and whilst I humbly hope that it may, in some degree, satisfy the curiosity of the colonists, by giving a plain statement of the wreck of the *Charles Eaton*, and the subsequent massacre of the crew and passengers of that vessel; I, at the same time, must entreat them to pardon my errors and overlook my imperfections.

All that I have stated from my own personal observation, I know to be true; and there is every reason to believe the other statements which are introduced into my narrative. Let the reader then, be assured, that the narrative has been rendered as correct as circumstances would permit, however inadequately it may be expressed.



NOTES.



Page 20. TIMORLAUT (or Timor-*laonet*), an island about sixty miles in circumference. S. lat. 7 deg. 25 min., E. long. 132 deg. 16 min.

The revengeful spirit of the inhabitants of Torres' Straits, which is alluded to, page 31, is common to other savage people, and as a late writer observes:—"No time can blot out the remembrance of an injury which has once been sustained; no distance can secure the unfortunate victim of this passion of hell. It is remarkable, however, that in the pursuit of vengeance, stratagems and wiles have uniformly been preferred by both nations (the Indo-Americans and the South Sea Islanders) to open force and generous valour. The Indian springs from his covert on his hapless victim with his vengeful tomahawk; the New Zealander cleaves his skull asunder in some unsuspecting moment with his deadly *narree*. The former scalps his victim and makes a drinking cup of his skull; the latter bakes his head in an oven, and preserves it as a trophy to future generations."—*Dr. Lang's Polynesian Nation.*

Page 20. Amboyna is one of the Molucca Islands, in about lat. 4 deg. S., long. 127 deg. E., and is defended by a Dutch garrison. It is well known, that when the Portuguese were driven off this island, the trade of it was carried on by the English and Dutch; and the barbarities of the latter in first torturing and then murdering the English, and thereby engrossing the whole trade, and that of Banda, can never be forgotten, but will be transmitted as a memorial of Dutch infamy at that period to all posterity. This tragical event happened in 1622. It is said that there are not less than fifty churches on this island, which have been erected by the Dutch.

Page 21. It is remarkable that a similar idea prevails amongst the North American Indians. Mr. West, in his *Journal of a Residence at the Red River Colony*, says:—“It is not an uncommon practice for them to cut flesh from their captives, and, when cooked, to eat small bits of it, as well as to give some to their children, with a little of their blood; no doubt under the idea that it will *give them courage, and a spirit of hatred and revenge against their enemies.*”

Page 34. Captain Igglesden, of the Honourable Company's Brig of War Tigris, in a letter to Dr. Wilson, which was published in *The Sydney Herald* of October 27 last, states that “fourteen of the forty skulls which were strung round the tortoise-shell figure, Dr. Hughes pronounced to be of European formation; the others were evidently the skulls of savages, and probably those of their enemies whom they had killed. The latter were of much more ancient date, and generally in a state of decay, while the former were comparatively fresh, one of which exhibited a lock of light auburn hair still adhering to the periostium, forced into the

skull by the fatal blow—one and all bore marks of great violence.”

Page 39. The statement respecting the natives is confirmed by Captain Igglesden, who says that “the few he saw left a very unfavourable opinion of them, either as to intellect, courage, gratitude, or any of the nobler feelings of our nature, and in which they deserve not to be spoken of in comparison to the Murray’s or even Darnley’s: many of their habits are disgusting, and almost incredible.” Captain Igglesden perfectly coincides with Dr. Wilson that Croker’s Island is better calculated for a location than Raffles’ Bay; and he regrets that after so great outlay and expense, the settlement on that part of the coast should have been abandoned.

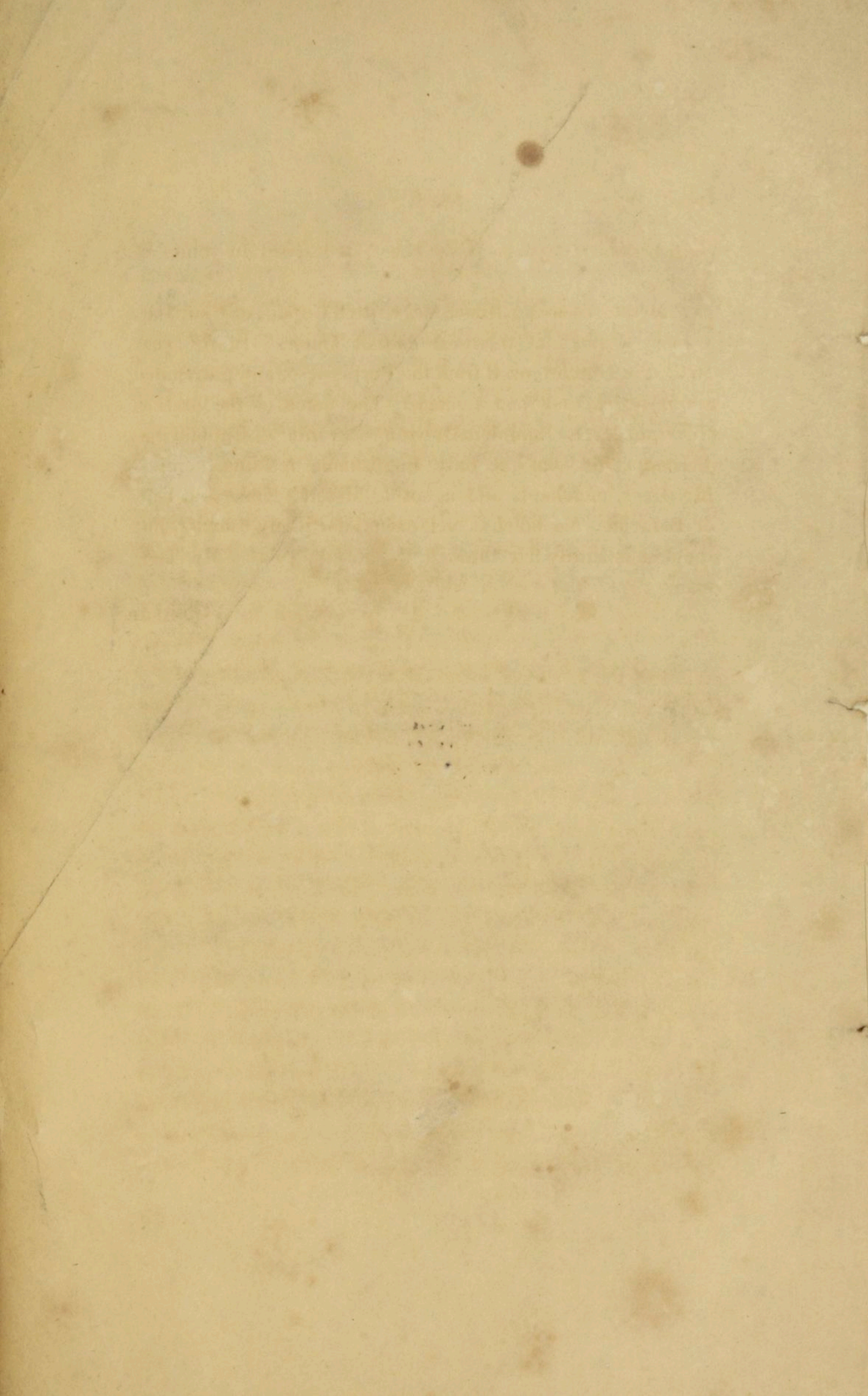
Page 44. Capt. King, R. N., in his Survey of the Northern and Western Coasts of Australia, states, that “the North Coast of New Holland has been known by the Malays for many years, and is called by them Marega. A fleet, to the number of two hundred proas, annually leaves Macassar for this fishery: it sails in January, during the westerly monsoon, and coasts from island to island, until it reaches the north-east end of Timor, when it steers S. E. and S. S. E., which courses carry them to the coast of New Holland: the body of the fleet then steers eastward, leaving here and there a division of fifteen or sixteen proas, under the command of an inferior rajah, who leads the fleet, and is always implicitly obeyed. His proa is the only vessel that is provided with a compass: it has also one or two swivels or small guns, and is perhaps armed with muskets. Their provisions consist chiefly of rice and cocoa-nuts; and their water, which during the westerly monsoon is easily re-

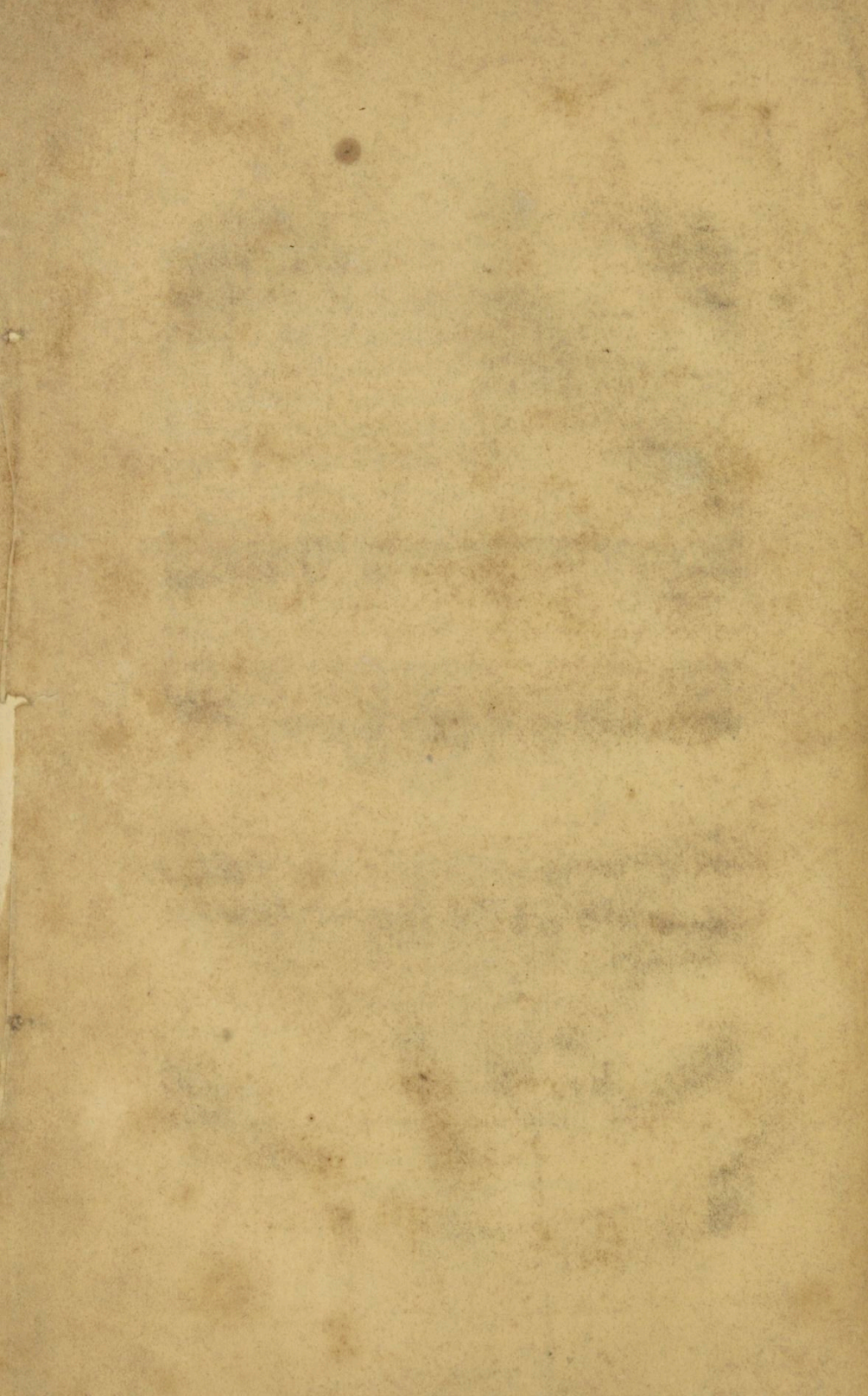
plenished on all parts of the coast, is carried in joints of bamboo."

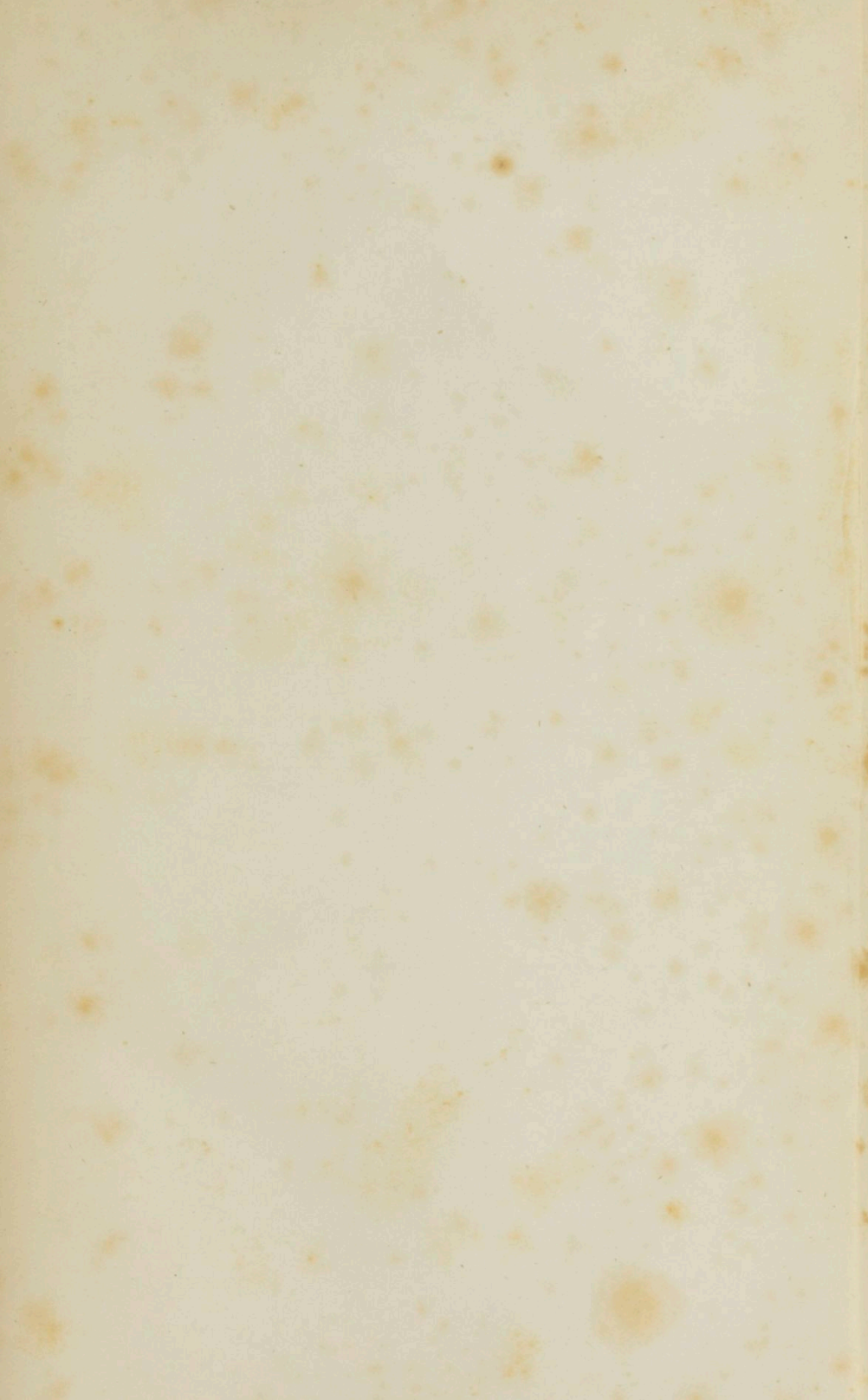
Page 47. Coepang, sometimes written Cupan, or Coupang, a town situated at the west end of Timor. In the year 1613, the Dutch took it from the Portuguese, and garrisoned a fort which they had erected. The name of the present Governor is D. Juan den Dungen Crovonius. Captain Igglesden states that the only Englishman residing there, is Mr. Laws, merchant, and agent to Messrs. Kince and Co., of Batavia. No hotel as yet exists, nor likely to exist, but the loss is hardly felt through the hospitality of a Mr. Tielman.



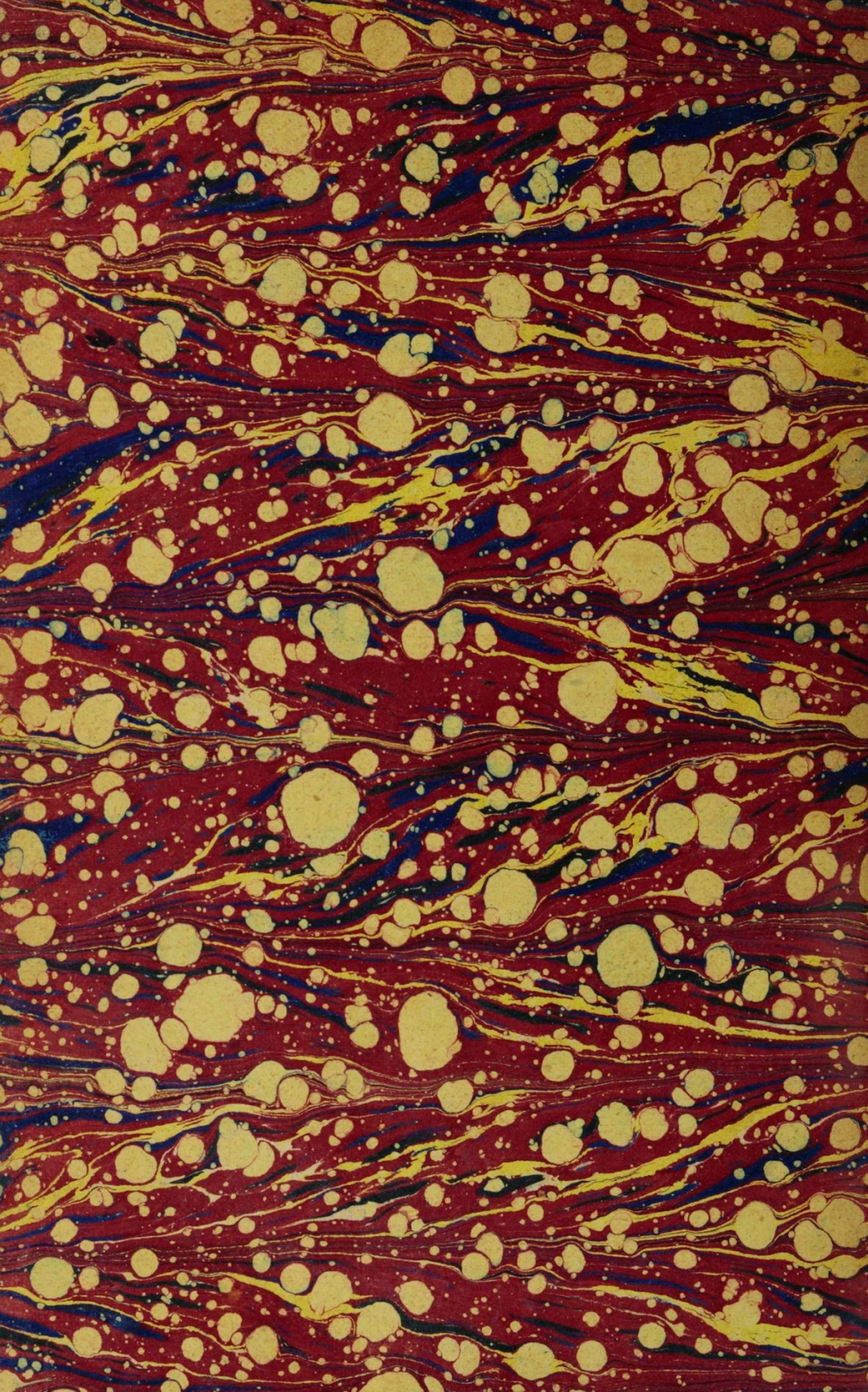
THE END.







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Narrative of a voyage from
Sydney to Torres' Straits :
in search of the survivors
of the Charles Eaton, in His
Majesty's col

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