

on deck. We would get from a gallon to a gallon and a half of oil out of a good sized porpoise which is very nice and clear, and worth double the price of ordinary oil.

One day soon after we had taken the black fish we were aboard by the cry of "Land sight ahead" from aloft and having a good breeze we could soon see it from deck and in an hour we were well up with it. It was covered with cocoanut trees down to the beach which seemed to be the distinctive feature of the island for without them it would not be seen a great ways. It was one of the numerous coral islands that their waters are studded with and it has the name on the map of Ocean Island. When we got as near as we wished to be we came to and waited for the natives to come off and trade as they always do but having waited some time and no signs of any appearing we were about leaving when a canoe started from the shore with a single native who coming on board told the Captain that the chief had put a "taboo" on and therefore they could not trade but he intimated that a box of tobacco presented to the chief would break the "taboo" and trade could then go on. This of course he refused to do and the native took his departure for the shore and we laid our course for Pleasant Island about one hundred miles from this one. After we had run about as far as was deemed prudent we backed our fore-top-sail and laid till day light when our course was resumed and in about an hour land was descried looking as near as possible like the one we visited the day before but long before the ship got to it we could see canoes coming loaded with natives both men and women. Just before they reached the ship the women jumped overboard and swam for the ship and the canoes reaching the ship about the same time the men jumped

up into the chains and politely assisted them on board by pulling them up into the chains by the hair of their heads and then marching them up to us would point at them and say "tobak". As for modesty that was all left on shore as it was of no marketable value on board of a ship. The men were entirely naked while the women had nothing but a bunch of reeds or rushes fastened around their hips and hanging down halfway to their knees and they were in the market for anybody for a piece of tobacco an inch square which they would hand to their husband if they had any such institution or father or whoever it might be who would receive it with evident delight.

While the women were occupied in their traffic the men would be going around amongst the crew with hats and mats and strings of cocoanuts and fish lines made of the fibres of the cocoanut bark. The cocoanut is about the only fruit growing on these islands and it is invaluable to the natives for they convert it to a hundred different uses. The fruit serves for subsistence and when green it contains a pulp of about the thickness of cream and also a quantity of delicious drink cold and slightly acid in taste while the leaves and bark serve to build huts and canoes and to make lime and from the sap they distil a very strong liquor. Eggs and fowls are raised here in great plenty and are fed with the ripe cocoanuts of which they are very fond and which they fatten on. In their trade with ships the general currency is tobacco but they will not refuse fish hooks looking glasses or but they prefer tobacco to anything. Offer them a silver dollar for a cocoanut and see how quick they won't take it. In their appearance they are about the color of a copper cent and the men wear their hair short with no beard as they pluck it out and their bodies are covered with cocoanut oil which gives them a smooth