

beach but what took our eye if not our fancy was to notice around nearly every hut a row of human skulls which they seemed to regard as quite ornamental but whether they were skulls of their own people or not we did not know. They were entirely naked but that did not embarrass them in the least. One of our men undertaking to buy something pulled out a head of tobacco when he was instantly knocked down by a club and the tobacco taken from him and three or four grabbing at it it was gone in no time. The captain hearing the outcry came out to see what the matter was followed by the chief who when he saw what had been done rebuked his people and we started for the boat although we could not get it over the reef without the aid of the natives. The captain who was as much alarmed as we were made his interview with the chief as short as possible and soon joined us at the boat when on a motion of the chief the boat was carried over the reef we sitting in her at the same time. As soon as we got clear of the island the captain began to scold the man that was attacked for being so thoughtless as to expose tobacco to the natives for it might have it not been for the chief have led to the whole of us being attacked and robbed if not killed.

The next island that we visited is laid down on the map as Black Island and is quite a large island there being several tribes of natives inhabiting it. There had been a fight a short time before we arrived between the tribes and to judge from the appearance of some of the natives that came on board it had not been altogether in sport. Some had lost their noses and some their ears while others displayed some hard-looking wounds on their bodies. They did not seem to mind them but trusted to Nature to effect a cure for none of them were bandaged. They nearly all brought each a hatchet or knife and crowding

around the grindstone proceeded to sharpen them. The captain seeing this and that they kept coming began to feel uneasy and gave orders to square away. As soon as the natives began to see that we were leaving the island they started for their canoes and soon the ship was clear of them. They were the most savage looking set that we had seen as yet and this joined to the fact that they were nearly all armed and kept increasing in numbers we began to be apprehensive that they might take a notion to attack us and if they had could easily have taken the ship as we would be powerless against so many. We were fast leaving the land when all at once a squaw made her appearance on deck from the steerage where she had been bestowing her favors and had been so busily engaged that she did not know the ship was standing off land on looking around and seeing that she was alone she uttered a scream and began pointing to the land. The captain now came up and seeing her make her jump overboard and on seeing she immediately struck out for the land. The mate remonstrated saying that she would never reach the land but the captain insisted that she would easily and we soon lost sight of her but whether she reached land or not was uncertain but it did not look to me as if anything but a fish could swim that distance against wind and current.

We made Diamond Island in a day or two at which place we got some pigs and fowls. This is a collection of small islets so close together that communication between them is easily kept up. We now cruised a spell visiting Strongs Is. and Ascension and finally touched at Rota one of the Marianas and close to Guam. Here we obtained oranges and limes and then standing for Guam we entered the harbor and anchored and gave liberty and recruited ship. I could see no difference in things between now and two years ago and probably it was the same twenty years ago.