

all storage way. The wind invariably dies away in the afternoon and in the morning a land breeze generally prevails till about 9 a.m. and vessels crossing here are obliged to take advantage of the latter in order to keep clear of the shore. Being perfectly becalmed and fearing we should get ashore on the Muna Mafua bank towards which the tide was fast setting us it was thought best to anchor and wait for the morning breeze which we did at 5 P.M. in about 12 fathoms on muddy ground.

July 20

This morning took our anchor made all sail and with a fine breeze soon cleared the river current. We then began to near the land and soon descried Habenda hills. Steering N. E. brought Palm tree point on our S. Beam and rounding this point stood in and let go anchor in 3 1/2 fathoms and here lay Habenda right before us. The scenery presents a pleasing and fertile prospect abounding in groves of trees of various kinds among which the palm are the most conspicuous. Clusters of villages consisting of huts built of reeds are also thickly scattered on the hills and plains which extend back as far as one can look. The anchorage is not very capacious being only about a mile and a half in length. The greatest depth 6 fathoms. It is however very good for small vessels and has long been a favorite resort for slavers. It is said to be quite healthy here. Canoes soon came flocking

around us laden with fish fowl fruit and vegetables which they gave us to understand they wished to trade for cloth and fish hooks. The men had their decks swarming with the coloured individuals and such a conglomeration of voices I never heard before. Their language is indeed very strange and peculiar. The description I have heard of these Africans is very correct. They are black as ebony or nearly so and their dress consists of a palmetto of cloth about the waist trailing down on one side and is called a tapa.

Quina Jack also came on board honouring us as he supposed by his presence. He took supper with us and amused me very much with the manner in which he used his knife and fork. Though awkward he behaved as well as could be expected at the table. Unlike some of the tribes they appear to be very harmless and some of them speak broken English quite easily understood. Some of the older ones manifested considerable pleasure on seeing the Capt. who has been here several times before and knew not a few of them. Took some fruit for immediate use and they left us at night all but one who is selected to head the ^{watching} gang on shore. In order to obtain their favor we are obliged to ~~show~~ ^{show} great respect for the head men and Simba as this one is called thinks himself honoured with the privilege of stoking on board and sleeping on one of the chests in the cabin. This evening have feasted on oranges and bananas and find them very finely flavoured.