

30th A beautiful day. At 6 o'clock saw Byron island from the mast-head. We headed for the land, and countless canoes left the island to meet us. Each canoe was well supplied with hats, for which they received tobacco, their hearts' ideal, and ~~for~~ which some of them would not hesitate to commit murder. But, through the prudence of our captain, had they attempted any thing of the kind they would have been roughly received. By 12 o'clock one of the men at the mast-head counted 87 canoes around the ship. The natives came aboard in swarms, selling their hats and mats. For a sennet hat, worth 75 cts at home, we paid one piece of tobacco worth 3 cts. There are several white men on these islands, some of whom have been here several years. According to all accounts they lead a miserable life. I asked one intelligent looking young man why he lived there. His answer was that he could live there without

working! The natives of this group of islands are entirely nude, with the exception of a covering made of grass, worn by the females round the waist. The negro that we took from Bowditch's island left us to take up his abode here. The Elizabeth had touched here two days before, with 1150 bls of oil on board, beating us, since we saw her, by 200 bls. The natives are very expert thieves for, after they left the ship, we found they cleaned the fore-castle of knives, spoons, &c. They would often sell a hat, then steal it and sell it again. This island is low and sandy, is covered with cocoanut trees, and can be seen from the mast-head about 18 miles. At 3 P.M. we braced forward steering S.

Oct. 1st.

Saw Roche's island 1 point on our lee bow. Tacked ship, and saw Peru island 2 pts forward of our lee beam. Roche's island on our lee beam. The natives came on board and tra-