

which lasted about half an hour. About noon Hope Island was raised from the mast-head, just before 4 o'clock the natives came alongside in their canoes. When we were off the weather end of the island we backed our main topsail and let them come aboard. The trade here is principally nuts, and coco nuts.

Quite a sad accident occurred here a short time ago. The barque Bell, of Fairhaven, and the Maria of N. B., were standing in towards the land. According to custom the natives came out to meet them in their canoes. When about 8 miles from the land a heavy squall came up which upset their frail canoes, and before the ships could render them any assistance, 50 of their number were drowned. The Maria picked up about 80 more in an exhausted condition. The natives reported that an English man-of-war had touched there a few days previous. These natives are expert thieves, and will steal everything within their reach. About an hour before the canoes came alongside, I came out of the hold where I had been at work, and took off my frock and hung it on a flying pin

on the forecastle, and went to the mast-head. While I was aloft I thought of my frock, and resolved to take it below when I went down. But when I got on deck they had saved me the trouble. It was probably safely stowed away in one of the hundred canoes that were round the ship, together with a new jack knife that was in the pocket, and will probably be offered for sale in the next ship that touches here. They also stole 12 heads of tobacco out of my chest in the forecastle, which I had just got of the captain to purchase some hats and nuts.

We find that we are not the only unlucky ship around these parts. The Maria is out three months longer than us with a sore. At sunset we braced forward and kept her N. E. W.

29th Light wind. Course N. by W. and N. N. W. Rain fell hard this morning. Shortened sail at sunset. Lat. 20° 8' S. Long. 176° 12' E. After supper the captain and mates assembled together to try and find out where the ship was. We had been running for Byron's island all day, and had not seen it. The mate and 2d mate allowed that it was