

*THE CRUISE OF THE UNITED STATES
SLOOP-OF-WAR "VINCENNES," CIRCUM-
NAVIGATING, 1833-1836.*

(Continued from page 210.)

CHAPTER XI.

Ramiera Island, December 6, 1835—At Toby Island—Wild-looking Islanders—Formidable Canoes—An Aracolonian Chief—Prince Haback's Narrative—Searching Toby Island—Native Prayers—A Temple—Idolatry—Tobian Customs.

AT Meridian, 5th December, we left the Pelews for Toby Island, which, by good luck, we hoped to reach in three days, as it was directly to the leeward. But we lost the trade-wind before we got on half our way, and on the third day were only at Ramiera, a small, low island not more than probably two miles in circumference. Even this little speck of earth has its peculiar inhabitants, its independent nations, and groves of cocoanuts to feed them.

Eight of these wild people came off to the ship in a substantial canoe. But they were too shy to come aboard, and contented themselves bartering cocoanuts from alongside. For a biscuit one of them gave me all of his clothing, consisting of a dirty belt, oiled and stained with tamerick, and a pair of ear-rings, shaped like a mushroom, which he wore with the stem through his ears.

In general appearance these islanders were like others we had seen, but not having the betel-nut to chew, their teeth were naturally white.

Our stay at Ramiera was very brief, and we continued our course to Toby Island, which we made on December 9.

This little island, so long the prison of eight Americans, is not more than half a mile wide and three-quarters of a mile long, and is surrounded by a coral reef, not far from the shore.

As soon as we got near the island, five canoes, with ten men in each, came off to us. These were about the wildest-looking fellows we had seen. They wore their hair long, flowing on their necks and shoulders, and many of them were naked, excepting a narrow belt round the waist, a string of beads round the neck, and toad-stool ear-rings, all of domestic manufacture, showing little skill and less taste. The entirely

naked ones were repulsive, as their bodies were filthy with dirt, cocoa-nut oil, and unskillful tattooing. Like the Ramierans, their teeth were white.

They were neither powerful in build nor warlike in appearance as represented to us, and so timid that it was difficult to persuade them to come aboard, and when, through many inducements, they at last did so, unarmed themselves, they were greatly frightened at our arms and number.

Their largest canoes will not carry more than sixteen men, but they are heavy and sharp, and they use them for ramming. It may easily be conceived how Captain Bernard's whale-boat was quickly cut down when several of these canoes rammed him.

We looked in vain among the canoes for white men, or evidence of close association with them, and our glasses failed also to show any signs of them on the shore.

Finally we discovered, among those in the boats, one who had black teeth, by which we knew him to be the Pelew prince who accompanied the Americans, and we experienced our first delight at beholding black teeth.

The Aracolonian chief was at once beckoned on board, and when we at last got him to understand that we would take him home, more of joy and gratitude never was seen in man's countenance. His was unspeakable joy, for he knew no words, that we could understand, to thank us. When the first emotion of his feelings had about subsided, he began to answer our queries about the white men.

By a little "broken English" and a little Spanish, which he had picked up, and some Pelew words we had learned and through gesticulations and signs,—for the "sign language" is the same the world over,—Haback, prince of Aracolon, Pelew, gave us the following account of his companions, which was afterwards corroborated and completed:

"Six moons passed and then came a ship and took away Captain Bernard and one man. Many moons did the rest of us work for our lazy masters, but no ship came for us. We climbed the tall cocoa-trees, to gather nuts and carry them to the town. So much climbing and nothing but nuts to eat made us so weak that we would fall to the ground under our loads. So much work! so little eat!

"We fished with traps and nets, caught little, but all was for our masters. Nothing but cocoanuts for us all the time. We got very weak. No longer could climb. We had to eat cocoanuts or starve, but our bellies would not retain what did not agree with them, even when well.

"The black American (a negro) knocked down an old man and killed him,—all right!

"Soon we all got very sick. One man die, then another, and another. No ship came for us. We got more sick, more weak. We

want help. There was not much for us, and very little was done to keep us alive.

"Again and again we looked over the water for a ship, but saw none.

"Soon another of our men died, then another. I and only two white men were then left.

"Forty more moons passed and another ship comes. The two white men, too weak to work, are taken on board, Haback still able to carry coconuts; no let me go! Poor Haback the only man left.

"A few moons and another ship stops. Haback goes on board. The ship was bound to London, and would not take me to my home. My eyes rained! My heart was so heavy! I had to return to my master and my slavery.

"Now you come and tell me that you will take me to Aracolon. The heart of Haback jumps almost out. I am too happy!"

The poor fellow burst into tears as he concluded his narrative, and sobbed long for joy.

We did not doubt his story, for his manner of telling it, and the feeling he showed, carried conviction with them, but we had come too far to take the word alone of any one, and it was our duty to search the island for our countrymen. The day being too far advanced, our landing was postponed until the next. In the meantime our decks were stinking with the rancid coconut oil and tamerick with which about eighty animated savages had anointed themselves, their full dress being a belt and a necklace.

They freely bartered coconuts for short pieces of old hoop-iron, of which they make fish-hooks. By sunset they had sold out, and, rich in old iron, had returned in high glee to their village. But they could not persuade Haback to go ashore again, even to pass the last night with the wife they had given him.

They told him that this wife was weeping for him, and longing for his return. "Let her weep," said he; "my Pelew wife and friends have been weeping fifty moons for me to return to them. Now I go to them. Let her weep now. Better Toby wife weep than Aracolon wife."

We stood off and on the island during the night, and next morning Lieutenants Carr, Missroon, and Gillespie, of the marines, and myself, with eighty armed men, were in readiness to land, and waited till the canoes came off.

When most of the islanders had got on board our ship, we hastily got into our boats and theirs and pulled for the shore. Those of the natives that had reached the deck were greatly frightened, and anxiously inquired of Haback if we intended to kill them. He endeavored to make them understand that we were going only to search for the white men. But they could not reconcile our warlike prepara-

tions for such a purpose, particularly after we had been informed that they were all dead, or gone away. When they saw us pull towards their town they leaped overboard and into such of their canoes that we had left them, and paddled with all their might after, and soon overtook us, as we made no effort to beat them to the landing.

When they came up they spoke to us, but we could not understand them. This seemed to annoy them more than it did us. When the speakers, who sat on the platforms of the canoes, saw that we did not heed what they said, they paddled on ahead of us, and began a sort of mummerly, connected with their prayers, probably. They mumbled words, hung their heads, and rubbed their left hands with the right, and kept this up till they reached the shore. We were obliged to leave our boats at the outer edge of the reef, the water being too shallow for our boats, and wade to the shore, distant about a quarter of a mile. The coral bottom and the water waist-deep made this anything but fun.

When we reached the landing we were met by the same men we had had on board, unarmed and very much frightened. They talked a great deal to us, but we could not understand what they said, and not even their signs.

We at once proceeded to search the little island from one end to the other, going into every hut, but could see no trace of our countrymen.

We found the island thickly covered with cocoanut-trees. Their fruit is almost their only sustenance. Their dwellings were the most miserable huts we had seen. I had to go on my hands and knees to enter any of them, and when inside could stand erect in but a few of them. In them there were very few baskets or mats to be seen, nor scarcely anything else to contribute to the comfort of the inhabitants.

A platform, covered with dried grass and cocoa-leaves, to sleep on, a nut-shell of drinking water, and another of cocoanut oil, generally constituted their furniture, together with a rudely-constructed dip-basket to catch fish with. The women all scampered to the woods as soon as they saw us land, taking the children with them. Their costume is only loose grass hung from around their loins.

In the centre of a cluster of huts, which might be called a village, was a respectable-sized shed, used as a house of worship, quite large enough to cover all the inhabitants of the island. This "temple" was only a roof resting on posts about eight feet long, it being open on all sides. I saw some natives within, and so entered, and found an old man sitting flat on the floor in the middle of the temple, praying. Several other men sitting behind him motioned to me to come and sit down beside them, which I did. But the old man at prayer did not raise his head, or appear to observe me. His eyes were fixed on his

hands, which he rubbed together vigorously, the same as did the men in the canoes.

The temple was floored with heavy planks, raised two feet from the earth, excepting at one end of it, which might be called the altar end. Along this unfloored end, standing on the ground, were arranged nine wooden human images, seven of which represented women, all well made, considering the indifferent tools which their makers used. A handsome miniature double canoe was suspended from the roof near the middle of the temple, ornamented with wreaths of flowers. The images and this canoe reminded me of the Roman Catholic church on the hill at Lyons, France, in which, in 1831, I saw a miniature ship suspended in the same manner. Whilst I was here a few men entered, showing the greatest reverence for the place of worship by bending to the floor and crawling to the centre, just as the faithful may be seen climbing the holy staircase at Rome.

Seeing at a glance, on our landing, that there was no danger to be apprehended from the natives, we divided our force into small searching-parties, but found no traces of the Americans, dead or alive, nor any graves, as the sea is their burial-place. Then we returned to the ship, satisfied that Haback's account of the Americans was correct.

When we were leaving the island the natives loaded our boats with cocoanuts, whose milk was a delicious beverage, as the day was very hot, and in return we distributed among them such bits of iron that we could spare. This made them so affectionate that they all wanted to go to the ship with us, but we could only take the chief with us, as our boats were full. But the chief changed his mind about going alone, and very suddenly plunged overboard and swam back to the island.

In an hour's time we got on board and filled away for the Pelews, where we arrived after a six days' sail.

We learned from Haback that the Tobians are generally quiet and exceedingly lazy, and are hard task-masters. That they are not quarrelsome among themselves, and when most angry indulge in only pulling each other by their long hair, and as soon as the pain from this ceases are good friends as ever. 

They have no neighbors with whom they can war, and are but one isolated tribe, and almost one family, with a little world of their own. They seemed entirely ignorant of such weapons of modern warfare that we had with us.

Their largest and most powerful man is their chief; but his authority goes no further than to lead fishing expeditions.

Their government is patriarchal, and the words and sayings of the oldest men are their laws; marriages are celebrated, and no man has more than one wife. The women are prolific, which is very unfortunate where the means of existence is so meagre. Among the crowd

of natives I noticed three living skeletons that would do honor to any museum.

They worship a benevolent spirit, who is represented in the images we saw in the temple. The preponderance of female figures is to show more benevolence than severity.

Their language, Haback said, is unlike any he had ever heard, and it took him a long time to pick it up. From the shucks of the cocoa-nut they make a very strong cordage, which was the only manufactured article they had to barter.

Their canoes are made of large trees that have drifted on the island from inland to the windward. The making of these is their greatest labor, as their only implements are stone hatchets and knives made of iron hoops. Although they may be lazy by nature, their perseverance is such that with their rude tools large logs are converted into strong and handsome boats that are not inferior, and are very similar, to those of the Pelews. Their sails are mats made of cocoa-leaves, and triangular in shape; thus fitted out, they navigate the ocean around them with ease and pleasure.

CHAPTER XII.

AT THE PELEW ISLANDS AGAIN.

Expedition against Aracolon—The Tricky Prime Minister—Our Allies—A War-like Scene—A Long Pull—Aracolon—Conflict Threatened—A Conference—The Coralese Minister's Speech—His Threat—Lieutenant Carr's Reply—Awaiting the Signal for Combat—Conciliation—Release of Sailors—Trickery and Treachery—Coral—Stone Piers—Costumes and Ornaments—The King's House—Its Significant Ornamentation—Coralese Customs—Jasper Money—Sailing again—New Year Day on the China Sea.

ON our return to the Pelews we resumed our old anchorage.

To insure our success in treating with the Aracolonians for the two captives, one hundred and twenty of our crew, fully armed and equipped, were detailed to accompany Haback to his native land. Besides this show of power, presents were also to be taken along to induce the Aracolonians to deliver up peaceably their two hostages for our one.

In our absence, King George had sent some of his people on a friendly visit to them, who induced an Englishman, named "Charley," to visit Coral in relation to the captives. Charley had come to the Pelews when quite a young man, and had grown old and gray among the savages in the country of his adoption, and as completely "savage" as any of his new fellow-countrymen, over whom his influence had become almost unbounded. It was he who saved the lives of the captives when they were taken to Boonbelthough, and caused their clothes

to be returned to them, and subsequently got them sent home for ransom.

With expectation of large rewards, Charley hastened to Coral to meet our ship on her return, and on our arrival he came at once on board, accompanied by King George and suite, and offered his services as interpreter on our expedition against the Aracolonians. But, as he had been so long among them, and had become so identified with their interests, it was thought advisable to retain him on board ship as interpreter, and to send Dick, the king's interpreter, with the expedition. In the government of Coral there was a prime minister called the Second King. He was the head of all political and military operations, and had six Rupaeks, or chiefs, for his council of state.

At this time the prime minister was Arcusbonga, an old, withered-looking man, with keen, restless eyes.

When we first arrived here, and were going to dispatch one of our boats to Aracolon with a letter demanding the surrender of the captives, Arcusbonga offered his services as messenger, promising to deliver the letter and return with an answer within twenty-four hours. As the distance was about thirty miles, and we should have to depend on a guide and interpreter, his proffer was accepted.

As wily as ministers of more polished nations, it seems he determined to use our letter to the benefit of his own state. He set out for Aracolon in a war-canoe, accompanied by the heir-apparent of the Pelews, King George's eldest brother. But when he arrived among his enemies he did not seek an interview with the captives, but kept the letter a secret, as it offered the Aracolonians presents for the safe delivery to us of the captives. Backed as he was by a man-of-war, he hoped to get possession of the captives without the presents, which he intended to appropriate to himself when they would be sent in return for the men. But, as the Aracolonians saw no man-of-war, and having confidence in their woody fastnesses, they refused to surrender the men to the Pelews without the promised ransom of two hundred muskets.

This answer was not without advantage to our wily emissary, for their refusal was as welcome to him as prime minister as their acceptance would have been to him as an individual. Upon a refusal he expected to see us exterminate his ancient enemies, in the execution of which he knew he could prevail on King George to aid us, and he further knew that our ignorance of the place would render their assistance essential to success, and, for such aid, he knew he would be well rewarded by us, thus reaping a twofold benefit.

His conclusions were, however, somewhat frustrated by going to Lord North's Island for the other men first. King George, more honorable and merciful than his minister, and having no wish to fight a second time for the captives, exerted himself in our absence to get the men secretly to Coral through Charley's assistance. But Charley was

avaricious, a thorough Aracolonian, and as wily as Arcusbonga, the minister.

Instead of availing himself of the means in his power to get the men secretly to Coral, he warned the Aracolonians of their enemy's designs, and advised them to closely guard their hostages, lest they should lose their long-expected ransom, the two hundred muskets and powder, the possession of which, he reminded them, would make them superior to King George's entire population. So Charley simply came here to confer with the king, and to await our coming. He told the king that the hostages were so closely watched, and the natives so determined to keep them for the ransom and the return of their three men, that it would be impossible to get them on any other conditions.

As Charley was by choice an Aracolonian, we did not blame him for trying to make as good terms for his countrymen as he could, though our countrymen were sufferers thereby. But our sympathy with him soon turned to distrust when we learned that he had deceived King George before, and if we had known it earlier we would not have trusted him at all.

When his Coralese Majesty sent his ambassadors with his jasper money to purchase the liberty of the captives, intending to send them home, it was Charley who acted the wily minister and thwarted his benevolent intentions by persuading the Aracolonian Rupacks to keep not only the captives, but the ambassadors and treasure. His advice was followed, and a war ensued, in which many of the Aracolonians bled for their perfidy. But that Charley had given the perfidious advice was not then known to the Coralese.

As soon as we had made the preparations for our part of the expedition to recover Prince Haback and the Americans, either by presents of powder and iron tools, or by force, King George dispatched his prime minister and his captain-general to get together his warriors, and the war-canoes ready to accompany us.

The Coralese took great delight in the undertaking, and the graphic scene of launching and arming the boats in the night, by torch- and fire-light, was worthy of an enterprising people.

As our boats, laden with one hundred and twenty officers, sailors, and marines, were passing the town of Coral, early in the morning, bright and cool, thirty war-canoes, each carrying about twenty warriors, joined us.

The scene then was at the same time war-like, picturesque, lively, and interesting. The straight, shining naked bodies of the dusky warriors were shown in bold relief by the sky's pale blue and the green waters, through which they paddled their long, sharp, light canoes, on the platforms of which we plainly saw their war-clubs and spears, all ready for strife. Raising and dipping their paddles together with the precision of machinery, their heads bowing and rising in unison as

they pressed their paddles to the length of the stroke, their long, black hair waved gently by the breeze, joyfully shouting their cheering war-cry, they glided swiftly as the wind by our heavy boats, exhibiting to us their breasts and faces stained vermilion, to announce their readiness and willingness to meet their enemy in deadly conflict.

Arcusbonga, the wily prime minister, occupied a seat in one of our boats, and Aracoco, the captain-general, went in another.

As the progress of our heavily-laden and armed boats was necessarily slow, we did not arrive at Aracolon till the second evening, so the war-canoes were obliged to lay to for us and their leaders, who were in our boats.

During our long pull many other canoes had joined us, which gave the expedition a formidable appearance, and made our combined forces number about eight hundred.

With such a force we could easily have destroyed the five towns of Aracolon; but our instructions obliged us to be persuasive and conciliatory, after displaying our forces. This policy could hardly be comprehended by our allies, who began to consider us faint-hearted, if not cowardly, and indeed some of our own party were of the same mind. As an intrepid chief was paddled swiftly by our boats, as we lay off the landing, with all of our men aboard, he cried out in his native tongue, "What! the sun almost hid in the waters, and no fight yet! Follow me!" His canoe soon struck the shore, and his dusky warriors leaped on the beach and impatiently awaited the command to begin the attack.

The Aracolon chiefs and warriors, equally warlike and ready for affray, were also assembled on the beach to treat or fight, as the result of negotiations might demand. To prevent an amicable arrangement between us and his enemy, Arcusbonga assumed the position of principal negotiator when we got on speaking terms with the Aracolonians, and endeavored to force a battle; so our first lieutenant, seeing no probability of getting possession of the Americans without a conflict as long as Arcusbonga was in the council, adjourned the sitting, and assembled again in the temporary absence of the prime minister, and learned that the Americans would be delivered up to us on the payment of a barrel of gunpowder and a certain quantity of iron tools and utensils, which proposition was speedily acceded to, and the lieutenant sent to the boats for the required ransom.

When the Coralese saw the powder and iron being taken on shore they took alarm, and those who had not already landed made haste to the shore, in spite of Aracoco's endeavor to stop them. Before the powder was delivered, Arcusbonga was informed of what was going on and hurried to the conference. His look was indignant and reproachful, while he declared in substance that "it was not in good faith for allies to treat singly with their enemies. And, above all, to give their

enemies powder was to arm them, not only against the Coralese, but against all navigators of these seas. With this powder and a few more muskets they would make themselves masters of the Pelews. Then the green waters would turn red through their murders and piracies. Hereafter there would be no safety for a vessel that approached these islands. Even now none escape that fall in their hands. Look at the men you now seek! Their lives were saved, only because they thought they might make more by them alive than dead! By murdering them they would get only the clothing they wore, and by sending them home they would get two hundred muskets. You increase their power and they will extend their depredations. Only a short time before you came, they attempted to capture a vessel which stopped on this side of the island for water and food. Had they been provided with ammunition they would have succeeded. It is as much against the interest and safety of your people and mine to arm these faithless savages, who spare not the lives of strangers except from selfish motives. And would you place the means of destruction in their hands? Think, stranger, think! If you cannot understand the impolity of such a course I pity you. If you understand and care not, I bleed at the heart for you. But I cannot suffer my countrymen to be exposed to the evil consequences that would ensue from such a treaty. Will you abandon the Coralese, who have ever befriended the Americans in distress, who have given them food and drink, and built vessels for them to take them across the wide waters to their far homes, without a hatchet, a chisel, or a knife in return?

“What we have given to your people in distress we gave freely. If you forget these things, your hearts are not like the Coralese. I do not name them for pay, but that you may know your friends and forsake them not.

“If you abandon the Coralese and make such presents to the Aracolonians, you discourage our hospitality and reward their piracies.

“But while the Coralese are in arms, and in the land of their enemies, they will not forget what is due to themselves. And, remember, we are not the first to break the faith that should exist between friends and allies.

“I now declare to you, before this assembly, that the Aracolonians shall not receive from you any presents of arms or ammunition. If they do, I will raise the war-cry and let loose my people on them. Aracoco and seven hundred warriors now brandish their spears and war-clubs ready to fall upon their old enemies at my bidding, and their numbers will be doubled before the going down of the sun. Their blood be upon your hands! You force me to it!”

We listened to the prime minister in silence. Speaking through an interpreter, he was necessarily deliberate, though his calmness was evidently assumed, as his eyes fairly reflected the fire burning within him.

Many of his long and musical sentences were reduced to a blunt, sarcastic phrase when interpreted, but their meaning was not lost.

The Aracolonian Rupacks were evidently confounded at his firm, warlike, and patriotic harangue, and made no attempt to reply, nor was Mr. Carr, our first lieutenant, much less perplexed and probably convinced by the truth and force of Arcusbonga's remarks.

Finally Mr. Carr spoke, addressing our allies: "Friends, as we have failed to treat jointly, we must now proceed without you. We have crossed the wide waters to get these men alive and without violence, if possible; such are our instructions, and we must obey them, though it should offend our friends and allies. We have ascertained that our object can be effected by giving the Aracolonians a barrel of powder and some other presents, and we intend to do it."

"Oh, short-sighted policy!" cried the old chief. "To save these two men you will give the Aracolonians the means wherewith to rob and plunder ships and murder your sailors wherever they can find them, reserving a few alive to sell to you for another supply of powder to carry on their depredations with."

Then turning to the Aracolonian chiefs, the old chief continued, with a countenance and manner too marked to be misunderstood: "Rupacks, for the last time I warn you that your acceptance of that powder shall be the signal for battle between us. The widows and orphans of your land can tell you how skilled are the Coralese with war-clubs and the spear. And muskets, too, we have, and well charged; nor has it been too long for you to remember that we know how to use them. Think well, warriors! Be ready!"

The savage multitude, marshaled under their various leaders, with Prince Aracoco at their head, waited only the signal for onset. The Aracolonians were equally prepared and numerous. A battle seemed really imminent.

Mr. Carr ordered all the men he had landed to stand to their arms to defend the Aracolonians. Our sailors and the marines, with reluctance and not a little muttering, fixed bayonets and cocked their pieces, stood ready to fire and charge upon their late allies.

At this juncture the Aracolonians, perceiving that a bloody strife was about to ensue, and believing themselves the objects of attack from both parties, not understanding Mr. Carr's orders, declared their willingness to take any other presents instead of the powder, and that they were ready to deliver the captives up to us on the payment of such other articles as were substituted, and the surrender of Haback, their king's brother. Thereupon the two Americans were brought in and given their liberty, and we landed the Aracolonian prince and turned him over to his royal brother, who embraced him, and they then proceeded to "rub noses" affectionately after the most royal fashion. Axes, hoes, adzes, chisels, drawing-knives, and other tools were given

as ransom instead of the powder, and good feeling was restored, and we returned to our ship, having been absent four days.

Charley, the white man, who had remained on board our ship during our absence, made himself so popular among the sailors, as they did not then know of his treachery to the Americans, that they gave him two bags of clothes and other presents useful to him in his situation. But when the two unfortunate sailors got on board, Davis, the more intelligent, told us of Charley's double-dealings, and that, though he had been the means of saving their lives at first, he had since played them false, by withholding from them the information about our ship's arrival, and advising that they be more strictly watched lest they escape to us. Davis said the first he knew of our being in the neighborhood was on the unexpected arrival of our expedition at Aracolon, and, of course, he had heard nothing of Captain Aulick's dispatches to them, though it was all known to Charley. Charley had not a word to say in his defense, so his presents were taken from him and given to the two men whom he had treated so shabbily for selfish ends.

He richly deserved the flogging at the gangway he would have got but for his gray head, and was summarily turned out of the ship.

Whilst Charley flourished on board one of his favorite sayings was, "like a jackass's gallop, short and sweet." He had repeated it so often among the sailors that it had also become a familiar expression in their mouths. When he was hastened over the gangway in disgrace, Dunham, a boatswain's mate, cried out, "Ah! Charley, your prosperity is like a jackass's gallop, short and sweet; steer clear of kings and their ministers, if you want to avoid disgrace!" Poor Charley gave him a desponding look, jumped into the nearest canoe and cleared out.

The day after our return I made a long visit to the town of Coral in company with several other officers. To avoid the coral-reefs we had to pull round several small bluff islands, covered with the greenest verdure from their highest point to the water's edge. A number of canoes were on the reef diligently gathering new shells, a ready market being found on our ship for them. King George had sent one of his men with us as a guide, and he called every canoe we came across to us in the king's name, so, in exchange for tobacco and knives, we obtained many beautiful specimens. Stopping so often for shells, we were three hours in getting to Coral. We landed at the end of a stone pier, which extends a quarter of a mile into the sea, and is twenty feet wide. In such a savage land we were surprised to come across a work such as this, that would do credit to the most civilized. Along the beach is a quay equal in length to the pier, forming together a mole half a mile in extent, making an admirable landing for boats and war-canoes. At the head of the mole was a large canoe-house, where we saw eight large war-boats, with accommodations for thirty men each, many smaller ones for ten men each, and a number of fishing-canoes, all painted red;

those for warfare having a wavy, white streak the whole length of each side, and profusely decorated with white bulla shells.

The first females we saw were some rather handsome young mulatto colored girls, of the "better class," whose full dress was a thick bunch of dry grass, split fine and dyed red, round their loins, reaching nearly to their knees. Their ornaments were tortoise-shell ear-rings and a half-dozen armlets, or bangles, made out of the same, on their left arm below the elbow. The shell is put on when they are little children, and cut larger on the inside as the arm grows, and when they are full grown the outer edge is carved. The men wear a large fish-bone in the same manner; but it is a rather uncouth ornament. Some of the men also wear ear-rings similar to those of the women, but much larger. These are the Coralese dandies.

On a hill we saw two large houses belonging to the king. On one was much carving and painting. On one corner is painted the image of a man, with a red streak extending from it up the gently-sloping roof nearly to the combing, where it terminates in a figure representing a king. At the opposite corner, on the same end of the house, is another figure of a man, with another red streak of length equal to the other, terminating in a figure representing the Evil One. As if presiding over these two, is a third on the combing, representing the Good Spirit. This allegory interpreted is that men start alike in the world. The good man rises and is crowned, the bad one rises to the same height but goes to the devil, and God presides over all alike. This was pure native religious belief, as no missionaries had ever visited the island.

In the houses we found the women grouped about on the floors, with scarcely any employment other than making their scanty toilets. But the men were all employed cultivating taro and potatoes, fishing, gathering cocoanuts, and minding their pigs. The women have few other privileges than idleness. Instead of having several husbands, as the Marquesas women, they are obliged to content themselves with only a part of one, though no man is allowed to have more than one *wife*.

There were many good houses, with windows and Venetian blinds, two stories in height. This was the nearest approach in the way of buildings to civilization that we had seen for months. The streets and roads were well paved, though narrow, and in places they had been leveled at the cost of much labor. The island on which the Coral is built is only about three miles across, and these well-paved roads cross it in several directions from shore to shore. Though they have no wagons or horses, and never saw them, still the uneven surface of the ground and the frequent heavy rains make these pavements quite necessary.

Small jasper pebbles are their money. One very large pebble is considered a fortune. The possessor can buy with it a house, taro-

patch, a canoe, and several hogs, in fact, a snug home; and where no clothes are worn, and the trees produce all that is necessary to subsistence, this is enough.

Taken altogether, our visit to the Pelews was both interesting and instructive, and our fare sumptuous, for we were well supplied with fresh provisions and fish, fowls, and beef. The beeves all belong to the king, and when we needed one, he would send a guide with our best marksmen to the woods where the cattle ran wild, and shooting them soon became one of our sports.

On December 20, having laid in a liberal supply of fresh provisions and water, we set sail for Canton, with fair trades. On the 28th we saw, at midnight, a lunar rainbow, as perfect as any one to be seen at Niagara Falls.

On the 29th, while we were in the Bashee passage to the China Sea, William Williams fell overboard from the top-gallant mast-head, lit on his stomach, and sank instantly. A boat was at once lowered; but the poor fellow never rose. Williams was from Westchester County, New York.

On the 30th we entered the China Sea, in sight of Formosa, and were three days in crossing it, and viewed with interest the countless number of Chinese trading-junks navigating its waters.

We passed from 1835 to 1836 sailing with a smart breeze over this smooth sea, and on January 2 took a pilot, and reached the mouth of Canton River in the evening. We stood on during the night as long as the wind was strong enough to stem the tide, but at midnight we were obliged to anchor and await a better wind or a fairer tide.

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