



Corbyn to look for the castaways from this wreck, but none of them were to be seen.

The Andamanese had probably murdered them all, and were wearing the boots themselves for fun, as I have known them do in more recent wrecks.

On the 15th February, 1864, Lieutenant-Colonel R. C. Tytler, who was still officiating as Superintendent of Port Blair in the place of Major Haughton, on leave, made over charge of that office to Major Barnet Ford, and proceeded on leave, as his health had failed during his term of office in the Andamans.

As, during Colonel Tytler's Superintendentship, Mr. Corbyn first became acquainted with the Andamanese, the Andaman Homes were founded, and he became the first Officer in charge of them, the first of his Narratives, with the accompanying letters, is here inserted.

Letter No. 22, dated the 25th June, 1863, from Lieutenant-Colonel Tytler, to E. C. Bayley, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India:—

“It is with the greatest pleasure I have now the honor respectfully to report, for the information of Government, the apparently great success which has attended my most ardent wish and desire, *viz.*, to establish upon a safe and permanent base a friendly intercourse with the aborigines of these inhospitable islands to strangers. This I trust has now to all appearance been fully established with at least one, if not two, of the tribes residing in the vicinity of our Settlement, notwithstanding the melancholy termination of our late apparently friendly intercourse which, by the imprudence of some of those engaged in it, ended unfortunately in the murder of Pratt of the Naval Brigade; the entire circumstances of that melancholy tragedy have already been submitted to Government. The two prisoners, Snowball and Jumbo, have been treated with the utmost kindness by the men of the Naval Brigade in charge of whose guard they remained as prisoners; but notwithstanding the kindness they received from these generous-hearted men, still I perceived that no advancement of importance had or was likely to ensue from a further sojourn in the Barrack guard, though unquestionably by their lengthened



stay there they had learnt to appreciate and value our kindness, and to a certain extent confide in our friendship. This in itself was a great step gained, yet at the same time I deemed it advisable to adopt other more active and advisable measures to push forward in a political point of view that which was likely to be of lasting benefit to the Settlement, and for all who might by unforeseen causes be compelled to visit these unfriendly shores, and attempt the bold step, if possible, necessary for civilising these savage people. I, therefore, after succeeding in inducing the woman known as Madam Cooper, and a boy, to come over and see Snowball and Jumbo, thought it prudent and advisable at once to attempt the accomplishment of my sincere desire. I, therefore, caused a house to be built in an enclosure surrounded on all sides by a bamboo fence in a well-inhabited spot on Ross Island; here I placed a guard of convict watchmen with instructions to guard rigidly the prisoners that were now about to be entrusted to their care, but to do so in a way not likely to excite their suspicions, or cause their distrust, but more to wait upon them and attend to their wants like servants. When these my arrangements were completed, I removed Snowball and Jumbo, along with the woman and boy, to their new habitation, which is situated sufficiently near my own house, so as to be immediately under my own personal supervision.

"Since it was impossible that such an arduous undertaking as I had ventured on could be satisfactorily carried out by the exertions of one individual, I solicited the Revd. Mr. Corbyn to render me the aid of his valuable assistance, which he has not only most willingly and cheerfully afforded, but from his gentle and conciliatory disposition has, I am proud to say, achieved great success towards the accomplishment of this desirable and important object so essential for the future welfare in every way of this colony.

"Since the arrival of the woman and boy, Mr. Corbyn has been the active means of inducing, from time to time, several more of the aborigines of one, if not two, distant tribes to visit Ross Island and join their friends. At the time I am now writing this letter,



viz., the 25th of the month, we have no less than 28 of the aborigines with us in the enclosure now known as the Andaman Home, *viz.*, 11 men, 6 or 7 women, the rest are children, one of whom is but a little infant in arms. I have increased the number of huts in the enclosure, and in fact have established a little village of apparently confiding savages in the centre of Ross Island.

"Their hitherto docile conduct and good behaviour are the astonishment of all who behold such a truly marvellous change after our late sad and fatal disaster. In this village (or rather as it is termed the Andaman Home) they are treated with little or no restraint beyond that which is necessary for their instruction. Here they may be seen sitting down, some working and making baskets, the women sewing clothes, and the two prisoners learning and repeating the alphabet of the English language under the guidance of instructors whom I have appointed. The aborigines appear cheerful and confiding, and exhibit no desire to leave us—on the contrary, they express great unwillingness to accompany us in our boats for fear of being taken away and returned to their wilds.

"I attribute the whole of this strange and somewhat marvellous change to the management and assistance rendered to me by the Revd. Mr. Corbyn, who at my request is most zealously prosecuting and carrying out my views. I sincerely trust those views are in accordance with the wishes of Government, and that they will sanction and approve of my conduct, and also permit me to incur the slight expense, comparatively speaking, which must necessarily attend the achievement of such a great object as the civilising of tribes of a savage, barbarous people like those inhabiting the Andamans.

"I shall endeavour to do so as economically and as reasonably as possible, and hope to do so with a sum not exceeding one hundred or one hundred and fifty rupees a month; for unless the savages are treated with every kindness and consideration, as well as satisfied by a repletion of food, I find that they become morose and dissatisfied, which it is desirable that in the infancy of my undertaking should be entirely avoided, so as to ensure success and instil in them a liking



and love towards us. We have acquired a great many of their words and sentences, and they have in the same ratio derived several English words and expressions, a full account of which will be found in Mr. Corbyn's report, which I have the honor to attach. "

The following letter, No. 99, dated 30th June, 1863, was addressed by Colonel Tytler to Mr. Corbyn :—

"I have the honor to inform you that in my opinion it is most essential that we should establish, as much as possible, a friendly intercourse with the aborigines of this island; and in expressing the sentiment, I firmly believe it is also strictly in accordance with the desire and wishes of Government, which now exist, and ever did exist from the very first commencement of the Settlement. To obtain and succeed in the attainment of this desirable object, the greatest caution must be used, so that a system of entire pacification, and by no means irritation, should be our course pursued. The aborigines, from our experience of them, have proved themselves to be a truly savage, treacherous, and ungovernable race of people, devoid of civilisation, in every sense of the word. Knowing then the difficulty we have to contend with, I have deemed it necessary to publish an order, prohibiting everyone from going over to the North Point, or to any other places on the mainland, known to be frequented, or constantly resorted to, by the aborigines, without my special permission; for notwithstanding, however kindly or well meant such visits may be, yet without the most perfect caution some slight, unforeseen, and unintentional event may completely mar and frustrate all my plans. I, therefore, placing every strict confidence in your naturally mild and conciliatory disposition, entrust the management and care of this great attempt to your discretion and judgment, and I request you will assist me, as much as lies in your power, to carry out this important object, which I firmly believe is the wish of Government, the particulars of which I shall do myself the honour of laying before them by this very mail, and trust my conduct will meet with their approval. It will always afford me great pleasure to render you every assistance in my power, at the same time I shall feel obliged



for any suggestions you may deem necessary to propose for carrying out this important project.

"The number of aborigines we now have on Ross Island amounts to nearly 12 men, women, and children, a number I conceive at present sufficient for all our requirements. As far as any friendly intercourse being hastily and rapidly gained on a firm and lasting base with such savages, I question much in the present infancy of our plans, for whenever these people have an opportunity, they will, in their low cunning and blinded ignorance, presume on our generosity and kindness; we may then reasonably expect this will always be their chief aim, and we must ever, therefore, be prepared to meet this line of conduct on their part without exciting suspicions, and also by mildness in thwarting their plans and gaining our object. I, therefore, wish that the aborigines we have be regularly taught the English language and that with firmness, decision, and kindness, as we would instruct children undergoing similar tuition; we do not require them to be taught or employed in mat or basket-making, or other work, which, though desirable at all times in themselves, are at present but of little use or value to the Settlement; but confine our actions to one great and chief object, *viz.*, being able to acquire the means of mutual understanding with them, which can alone be obtained by the aid of language. It is satisfactory to know that at present they evince no desire to leave us, nor is it desirable that they should do so. I therefore require that the course of training pursued be conducted in a way that they will learn to appreciate their now comfortable home and mode of living; and although it is desirable that those we now have should not leave us, or again be allowed to run wild in their woods, it is equally desirable that we should not bring more over who, in their fresh and ungovernable state of wildness, would materially tend to retard the advancement of those we have. I would, therefore, wish that no more be induced to come over at present, but think it desirable that occasionally, about once a fortnight, a few might with advantage be induced to come over for a very short visit, so as to satisfy their tribes on their return of the care we take of their people living under our charge, and after feeding and otherwise



kindly treating them to return them to their woods. By this means we secure a double advantage.

"1st.—They must see the superior comforts of civilisation compared to their miserable savage condition ; and

2nd.—Though not immediately apparent, we are in reality laying the foundation stone for civilising a people hitherto living in a perfectly barbarous state, replete with treachery, murder, and every other savageness ; besides which it is very desirable, even in a political point of view, keeping these people in our custody as hostages, for it undoubtedly secures the better behaviour of these inhospitable people towards our Settlement ; whereas their leaving us might injure and abolish all the good that has already been established, and might take years again to regain and recover were we to lose the great advantage we now hold and possess."

(I have quoted these two letters of Colonel Tytler's *verbatim*, and in full, as they show his policy towards the Andamanese, and justify Mr. Corbyn in the repressive conduct he was afterwards blamed for using to them. Colonel Tytler's action in keeping women and children as permanent prisoners was illegal, and his attempt to teach them English was a mistake. They should have been allowed to pick up a colloquial knowledge of Urdu from their convict attendants.—*M. V. P.*)

NARRATIVE

Of the Revd. Henry Corbyn, relative to the Aborigines of the Andaman Islands, submitted to Lieutenant-Colonel Tytler for the information of Government. Dated, Ross Island, the 2nd July, 1863.

Having been requested by Lieutenant-Colonel Tytler, Superintendent of the Settlement, to state, for the information of Government, the various circumstances of chief interest which have come under my observation in my relations with the aboriginal inhabitants of these islands, with whom I have associated, perhaps more than any other European, since my arrival at the Andamans, I proceed now



to recount in detail the information which I have gathered with regard to these people, their character and habits, describing the progress of my intercourse with them, commencing from the date of the two Andamanese prisoners named Snowball and Jumbo having been placed by Lieutenant-Colonel Tytler under my instruction.

These prisoners had for several months been retained in fetters at the Naval Barracks under a guard of the Naval Brigade, by whom they were treated with much kindness and indulgence, and regarded with an interest which they appear to have appreciated in the intimacy which sprung up and the friendly attachment which they secured among many of the sailors. The two prisoners, however, though indulged in every wish compatible with safe custody, were regarded more as objects of idle curiosity than as rational beings capable of cultivation and improvement. People flocked to visit them as they would wild beasts in a menagerie, and on these occasions the untutored savages would laugh, and dance, and perform various antics to attract mirth and gifts from the spectators. They were never allowed to leave the barracks, and were generally to be seen lying on the stone floor in the verandah with nothing but a small strip of cloth round the lower part of the body. Any other clothing given to them they reluctantly adopted, and chiefly made use of to fasten together their food and other trifles comprising the property of which they became gradually possessed.

About three weeks, or nearly a month ago, some more of their tribe having been seen on the mainland at North Point, a party of sailors was despatched, who brought back an Andamanese woman, the wife of Jumbo, known as Madam Cooper and now called Topsy, and a boy, supposed to be a brother of one of the prisoners. Soon after their arrival, I proposed to Lieutenant-Colonel Tytler to instruct them all in English, and they were brought to me daily to the Superintendent's house to learn the English alphabet.

Our first interview was of a very droll character. I showed them books with pictures, endeavouring to make them trace, and identify, and pronounce by name in their own language each of the objects represented, but when we afterwards turned to the alphabet, and they



were made to understand that it was to be frequently repeated till committed to memory, they became impatient, and at first attempted to avoid the task by jesting and shouting, and afterwards by other expedients, such as pretending that their heads ached, or by diverting attention to other trivial matters.

By coaxing and humouring them I succeeded for some time in fixing their attention, teaching one by one, for it was impossible to keep all to the task at the same time. The boy would rush off to one end of the room and dance and shout defiance. Madam Cooper would fling herself down to an easy chair, and once, before I had time to check her, lay herself at full length on a bed on which she left the marks of a body bedaubed with red mud. Another would run to the door to call for judder (cocoanuts) (*Jéder—M. V. P.*) and Panoo (beer) (*Urdu—M. V. P.*), or as they more generally called it—"tin water," or a light for a cigar (the use of which they had learnt from the sailors), or else seize something on the table and set the rest screaming of laughter by his remarks and grimaces. This insane orgie would go on from day to day, almost baffling my efforts to civilise and instruct them. I was obliged at length to use coercive measures, which however were not without risk, for whenever they were slapped, they would slap in return, and use jocular or abusive remarks, which provoked roars of laughter from the rest at my expense. The savage boy one day brought with him a bodkin, and when I enforced his attention to his lesson as usual by holding his head over the book and making him repeat the letters, he pointed it at my eyes with a sign that he would pierce them with it, unless I gave up that obnoxious mode of teaching him. I am glad to say that perseverance in my course has been rewarded by the unquestionable proof exhibited that the Andamanese, who are most imitative and possessed of extraordinary memory and quick intelligence, may soon acquire our language, and it has justified my opinion that a much higher object might be attained in the compulsory confinement of these savages than merely impressing them with a sense of our liberality, and the generous treatment they experience, which, as savages, and without pure enlightenment, they would perhaps



not understand, or might look upon as a reward for their buffoonery, and the sport they afforded to the sailors and others who visited them.

(In about a month Snowball and Jumbo were able to repeat the whole alphabet, and to distinguish and point out each letter separately, so that when a bundle of wooden letters were shown to them they could at once select the letter asked for.)

Soon after the arrival of Topsy, *alias* Madam Cooper, and the boy Sambo, Colonel Tytler conceived a plan for locating the Andamanese prisoners with the new comers, and any others of the tribe who might subsequently arrive, in a small house on the island not far from the bazaar, where they would be watched by a strong guard of Natives, but otherwise enjoy full liberty, and their education continue to be conducted. In the course of time the place expanded, and what was intended to be a solitary house for one small family has become the centre of a cluster of houses, in a compound railed in, which are called "The Andaman Home." These have been peacefully tenanted by the savage aborigines, in no way restricted in their liberty, whose approach to these shores would not long since have caused consternation through the Settlement. Only last week there were no less than 28 Andamanese assembled in the Andaman Home, a sight which elicited comments expressive of unaffected astonishment and gratification from crowds of Europeans and Natives who witnessed it. Their submissive and orderly conduct, good temper, and the pleasure they evinced, were pledges of good understanding which, if discreetly maintained and not interrupted by acts of violence on our part, will, I am convinced, ripen into an intimacy and warm attachment, and be productive of incalculable blessings both to us and to this benighted outcast race, with whom our lot has brought us into contact.

(Considering the coercion exercised to keep the Andamanese in the "Home," the fact that their only reason for coming there was to see the two prisoners Snowball and Jumbo; and the circumstances attending the murder of Pratt and the consequent imprisonment of these two men, the above reads somewhat queerly.—*M. V. P.*)



But I have yet to relate how this good understanding has been effected. Colonel Tytler having one evening observed one of the Andamanese fishing up to his waist in water on North Point, determined to send his boat with men of the Naval Brigade to invite some of them. I volunteered with the Superintendent's Tutor, Mr. Redpath, to accompany the party; my chief object being to restrain the sailor, from any deprecable act, such as on a former occasion led to unforeseen calamity. Having rowed to the point to which through the telescope I had seen the smoke issuing from their camp, at about thirty yards from the land, we rested on our oars and shouted to the natives, showing plantains and other fruits by which they are so ardently attracted. One by one they came out stealthily. From the (wand of voices there must have been numbers concealed in the bushes. The first two came towards the boat with bows and arrows. At the sight of these I was at first apprehensive of danger to our party, but the sailors assured me that they invariably brought weapons as presents to them in return for coconuts and plantains. We, therefore, continued to hail them, and soon five of them swam out and were taken into the boat, when they immediately gave up their bows, and one of them, knowing our habits, brought a large blazing log to light cigars.

(The Andamanese were no doubt well acquainted with the Naval Brigadesmen, who used to go over to North Point and sit in their camps. Fire was first brought for their pipes, and then women were asked for. The weapons of the Andamanese were also taken away, and some trifles given in exchange.—*M. V. P.*)

No sooner were they in the boat than they at once took possession of all the fruit, bread, and biscuits, which they concluded were for them, and devoured them with the keenest appetite. One of them hearing the sailors call for more bows and arrows jumped out of the boat and swam again to the shore, but as it was late in the evening we returned. Some others of the party came out on the beach, but it seemed doubtful from the delay whether or not they intended to come with us. The four Andamanese whom we brought over were a woman known as Queen Victoria, and re-named by me Bess, and three men who are well known as Joe, Jacko, and Jingo. It was thought



advisable to employ the new party as well as the former comers, and accordingly Snowball and Jumbo, besides their instruction in the alphabet, were set to work at basket and *morak* making, at which Jingo, a very *dan* let and tractable man, but who at first seemed the most unruly, assisted them; while Jacko and Joe were daily instructed by a Burmese to make bamboo matting for flooring, the women Topsy and Bess receiving lessons in sewing. They all showed a strong disinclination to do work of any kind. Joe, who is a very dodging and deceptive man, but extremely playful, almost always laughing and in high spirits, would try every artifice to escape the mat-work, at one time making a show of working hard at it, and as soon as he was not observed quietly sliding into a corner, or pretending to be raking the fire, or to want something left on the *machan*, or to be under the necessity of going out for a few moments, or else simulating illness, or if all these shifts failed, half petulant, half amused, with a bel-low of disgust returning to his work, only to try the same tricks again and to jest at all around him. Jacko showed a more pugnacious spirit, and was inclined to resist with force till he found such resistance unavailing. The same opposition was encountered in teaching Topsy and Bess sewing, but they were soon overcome by firmness; and though now, for other important reasons, these industrial occupations have been abandoned, yet in the time they were thus employed both the Andamanese women gave proof that they had a real aptitude for delicate manual labour, and that they would be capable of doing the finest work in sewing under a proper course of training. I was amused the other day, on returning from the woods where I had torn my trousers—as soon as Topsy caught sight of the rent she pointed it out to the other Andamanese woman, and condoling with me as my leg was slightly cut and bleeding, neatly put the slit pieces of the cloth together again and said, and shewed, how, when she returned to to Ross Island, she would get a needle and thread and stitch them. I mention these trifling points as they serve to bring more vividly before the mind's eye the movements and actions, the habits, character, and dispositions of the curious and interesting people of whom I am writing.



I now adopted the practice of taking with me in my walks about the island and in boat excursions two or three of the Andamanese men, in hopes that a confiding familiarity and friendship would result from this constant companionship, and that the Andamanese might hereafter act the part of guides and prove of assistance in visiting places on the mainland.

Having been one day invited to Chatham to go with Captain Heath and Lieutenant Carr to pick coral on Blair's Reef, I took with me Joe and Jacko, and on our arrival at Chatham such a crowd of natives assembled to see the dreaded savages that we had the greatest difficulty in landing and making our way through them to the officer's quarters. The crowd followed us and surrounded Captain Heath's house, when to divert them I told Joe and Jacko to dance on the boards to the sound of our hand-clapping. They performed the evolutions very gracefully and with astonishing agility, their arms extended slantingly above them and just touching at the fingers, their feet almost sliding on the boards, and with a rapidity which could only be surpassed by running. They kept up these feats longer than usual, and at last Joe thinking the crowd too exacting, ran down and "tirpah'd" (danced) right and left amongst them, kicking out vigorously on all sides, and both he and Jacko almost bursting with laughter at the sight of the frightened natives tumbling over one another, and the rapid clearance which was soon effected. It was now the turn of Joe and Jacko to be diverted, so they insisted on making some of the spectators dance while they clapped their hands to keep time and encourage them.

The sepoys made them a fire at which they roasted unripe plantains, and lying leisurely on the ground chatted and laughed with the natives, pulling about the sepoys and examining with interest their clothes and accoutrements. While we were wading on the coral reef, Joe and Jacko sat for some time on a rock in mute astonishment, evidently perplexed at our taking the trouble to collect what they apparently considered common bits of rock and rubbish. By way of accelerating our collection, they brought me heaps of worthless deposits of stones and shells which I gratefully rejected. They then began to shout impatiently, and to appease them I proceeded with them to the plantain grove, at

the sight of which they were again in ecstasies, "tirpaking" and hallooing till their shouts and echoes through the woods drew down the Native Guard, who looked in their alarm tantalizingly disposed to fell them on the spot had we not interfered to protect them. We had not a knife to cut the bunches of plantains from the boughs, which were too thick for the strongest of us to break them; but Joe showed his ready ingenuity and the quick contrivance and inventiveness of his race by taking from the beach a small sharp pointed shell with which they brought down bough after bough of plantains. On our return to Chatham I remained to dine, and after Joe and Jacko had regaled themselves with food and became tired of sporting with the Natives, they came to me constantly, calling "mio," "mio," (Māia "Sir"—*M. V. P.*), which, as it is always used in addressing us, I suppose must mean "friend" or "protector," and begged me to take them back, not to their own houses but to their "boudla" (home) on Ross Island. (*Bud-da* "house"—*M. V. P.*). It was stormy and dark, and being strangers to the place, they were naturally alarmed at the delay, and came to me twining themselves round me for protection; in fact I could hardly rid myself of them during the interval of my meal; but having succeeded at last in explaining to them that after I had dined I would return with them to Ross, they laid down on a bench and wrapped themselves with my coat and razai, and slept soundly till I awoke them about 10 at night, and brought them back with me to this island.

On my return in the boat they both kept cuddling me and giving other demonstrations of affection: indeed, they all now do the same whenever I visit them, or bring them in our boats. I am almost pushed by the weight of their embraces, the most objectionable result being that when it is over, my face, hands, and clothes are besmudged all over with daubs of the red mud with which they are painted, and which is so adhesive that the hardest washing and brushing will sometimes fail to remove them.

My next expedition to the mainland was on Monday the 22nd of June in the Superintendent's cutter with the Superintendent's crew, thirteen men of the Naval Brigade.



Colonel Tytler gave us a pig with some fruit and biscuits as a present to the aborigines.

We took over with us Joe, Jacko, Jingo, and the boy Sambo, who had long been suffering from fever and headache, which I treated, and afterwards Mr. Carthy, the apothecary, but both of us ineffectually.

We landed on North Point, where several women and children, who have since been over to Ross, came wading out to meet us.

We landed one by one very cautiously, the sailors with loaded and half-cocked muskets, and I and my servants with revolvers.

By this time Joe and the rest having seen me continually coming to the Andaman Home, and taking the general management, had conceived the idea that I was a chief, an idea which was probably strengthened by the fact of my height and size, and Joe intimating something of the kind to the women, they lavished the most gracious smiles on me, and came inquisitively surveying me, feeling my muscles and examining my hands, fingers, and nails; one of the women quite took possession of me for the rest of the day, throwing her arms round my neck, and frequently jumping on my shoulders to make me carry her over difficult passes on the road. The women soon tire in walking, and we all of us had at times to submit to be made beasts of burden to accelerate their progress.

(The Andamanese women can walk very well and far, and were only playing the fool with Mr. Corbyn and his party.—*M. V. P.*)

I carefully examined their coast, and found in the wood, a few paces from the shore, one of their huts, which was formed simply of two long circular canes stuck at each end into the ground and covered with slight palm thatching, open altogether at the front, and with only enough space inside for their fire, and three or four of them closely packed together. The women and children, or invalids generally take possession of the hut, warming themselves over hot ashes.

They apparently take no pains to sweep or clean their camp, from which always arises offensive effluvia of decayed fish and accumulated filth, which would become even to them most unwholesome and in-



sufferable, but that shell fish crawling all over the camp performed the kindly office of scavengers.—(Hermit Crabs—*M. V. P.*)

About the camp in recesses of trees and thick bushes are deposited their acquired gains and treasures; they are most careful to conceal out of sight their weapons and all articles of value, none of which have been found by any of our party in our wanderings through the woods. I believe that they are all carried to a principal camp far into the interior, none of the beads or any of our gifts which they value having ever again been seen by us.

(The Andamanese had as usual hidden their goods when they saw the strangers coming, and the presents had long since been passed on from hand to hand about the islands.—*M. V. P.*)

We found near the camp several baskets with fish, small nets, nails, and bottles. They form on some more artificial tanks filled with salt water, in which they place superfluous stocks of live fish, to serve them, I suppose, when hindered from fishing in rough weather. One of these was discovered by a native convict, who, supposing that the fish had been left there on the ebbing of the tide, immediately began to shoal them out, to the annoyance of the Andamanese, till I stopped him, and had them all picked up again and replaced in the water. (Mr. Corbyn has made some mistake in what he saw. No such custom exists among any of the Andamanese tribes.—*M. V. P.*)

I always gave strict injunctions, which are creditably observed by both sailors and natives, not to touch anything belonging to the Andamanese, nor to ask for bows and arrows and other implements which are necessary for their subsistence, so that nothing should occur to produce unfriendly feeling between us. On the occasion to which I refer I gave directions to Conner, the coxswain, to land some of the crew, and order the rest to keep a short distance out to sea, watching and following us as we went along the coast to the further camp of the aborigines, to which they beckoned us to proceed. As soon as we were safely landed, the pig, fruit, and biscuits were given to the savages, who ravenously seized upon them with the intention of at once carrying them to their further camp. The women at the sight of the pig yelled and clapped their hands, and forming a circle round



it enjoyed a wild and spontaneous *térpah*, into which they threw themselves with unbounded glee and spirit; while the men seized the pig, one by the throat, another by the ears, another by the legs, and another by the tail, and looked around for an instrument for its destruction. Joe seeing my dagger asked the loan of it, and with one gash, through the throat and from bone to bone, instantaneously despatched his prey. They then cut some flexible branches of long creepers, and fastened first the two front and two hind legs, and then all four legs together; then with stronger creepers they made a bundle of the pig and, fastening to it a branch long enough to suspend round their shoulders, motioned to me to proceed. Joe, when he carried the pig, let the whole weight rest by a branch on his chest or neck, the women always on the forehead. We had a large party, but with Conner's able management the soldiers were kept together, and the most perfect discipline maintained. When we came to their middle camp, consisting of two huts similar to the one described, they made preparations to cook the pig, taking out the entrails which they washed, and placed it without further preparation on a pile of logs on which they roasted it entire.

Before they arrived in this camp, they concealed in a bush the bag of biscuits and plantains which we had given them. We had difficulty in persuading them to go further. Joe and the girl Polly, who had so tenderly caressed me, and two or three other boys alone accompanied us, and we went on for about two miles along the shore, and then in our boats to the large bay on the ridge of which their chief exterior camp is situated. This place appears to be a rendezvous for many separate tribes who roam all over the mainland. On our arrival we saw only two or three of the inhabitants, who had been attracted by our shouts of "Mio," "Rogo" (meat), but more gradually emerging from all parts of the forest. A form of salutation which we have learnt from them was to take the hand and blow on it making the sound of a kiss, which they returned in the same manner—a salutation which they use to each other as well as to us, and which we conclude, therefore, to be a token of friendship and fidelity. (It simply means "farewell."—*M. V. P.*) One of them, a man, came limping from the



woods with a wooden staff which he held in his right hand; he glided up to me and put his knife into my hand, a rude weapon formed of iron hoop fastened to a piece of wood which was covered with notches or hieroglyphics. He had a sword gash, which was raw and bleeding, on his right foot. On Joe's speaking to him of me he asked for Snowball, and pointed to his feet, as if to intimate his wish that Snowball might be released.

An aged woman now came up, a fierce looking virago; she appeared idiotic, and talked loud and angrily, as if cursing. I made the usual salutation which she returned, but after doing so gnashed her teeth close to my hand, and then contemptuously flung it from her, as much as to signify that she had a good will to bite and tear me if she could. She exhibited the same animosity to other Europeans. I concluded that she was insane, and she may possibly have been rendered fierce by losing a son or other near relative in affrays with Europeans.

(Such cases are often seen. She did not approve of strangers, and her husband, child, or some relation had probably been killed or injured by us.—*M. V. P.*)

The other savages were extremely demonstrative in their friendship; most of them felt my limbs and examined my hands and fingers, as if tracing the veins; they pointed with pleasure to a souvenir which I wore, given to me by Polly, a piece of her coral bracelet which she had fastened to my necktie. After joining in their dance we embraced them and returned, bringing with us a small axe and some bows and arrows which they offered us of their own accord; none of them showed an inclination to return with us, the pig which we had left behind being for the time the absorbing attraction.

On Thursday, the 25th, I again proceeded with a Native crew to North Point. Joe, Jacko, and Jingo were the first to swim out, and were soon followed by crowds of women and children. The confidence of the aborigines had been fully regained, and our only difficulty now was to accommodate the number that wished to be conveyed over. One of the stealthy urchins was no sooner in the boat, than he desisted a



bag of coconuts, and before I could call to arrest his design, with the speed of magic he had dived with the bag into the water. He reappeared at the distance of some yards off, and turning his head wagged it at us, laughing at his own dexterity and the success of his cunning. We saw him shoving the bag before him, and with a few plunges more he reached the shore, and disappeared with it into the jungle. He seemed quite unconscious of any culpability in his conduct, or may have presumed on our ignorance or indulgence, for the next morning he appeared amongst a fresh party which we brought over to this island.

I contented myself with bringing on this occasion only a few of the younger children and women, one with an infant in arms. I was surprised to see this infant after satisfying itself from its mother's breast clamour to her to hold down ~~her~~ mouth, and try with its tiny arms resting on her necklace to raise its mouth to kiss, but its object was explained by the mother putting her lips down to her child's and giving it from her mouth some munched coconut which the child had watched her chewing. The other women occasionally gave it food and water in just the same way that birds impart nourishment to their young.

On the afternoon of the 22nd of June I went over with Joe, Jingo, and Jacko, and three Andamanese boys, to one of the chief posts of the Settlement, called Haddo. Near this post is the plantain grove, our previous visit to which I have already described. Joe's and Jacko's agreeable reminiscences of that visit made them very desirous to repeat it. We went once more accordingly with Colonel Tytler's permission, and after supplying ourselves with a moderate quantity of plantains and sugar-cane, which the aborigines were allowed to cut themselves, a liberty which enhanced their value, we walked down to Haddo, where Mr. Jones, the Overseer, met us. As soon as the arrival of the Andamanese became known there, the whole of Haddo turned out—men, women and children, of the latter there was a large display, Haddo being the post for married natives. The Andamanese were all in their element, as they are naturally well disposed to women, and childishly fond of children. The natives swarmed to Mr. Jones'



ground and called upon the Andamanese to go through the usual performance of dancing, which Joe again applied to the useful purpose of clearing a crowd. His "whoop," "whoop," "whoop," and wild sonorous war shouts exciting exclamations of terror from the crowds of gaping spectators.

(The wrong sound is given, and the Andamanese have no war shout.—*M. V. P.*)

Their alarm was increased when I placed a bow and arrow in Joe's hands and pointed to a target on the rocks at which he was directed to aim. His arrow carried about 40 yards and just missed the mark. His aim, however, was not a deliberate one, for the target was only a pineapple, and he had no interest in fixing it. In the morning, while we were crossing over in the boat to Ross Island, he had taken a much more accurate aim at a bird flying near us and which he probably would have winged, had I not arrested his aim to appease the alarm of one of our party who feared the rocking of the boat might divert the shot to him. It was interesting to watch the intensity with which the eyes of this savage dilated, and his eager jubilant expression as he calculated his aim and its result, but on the present occasion the mark had not the same interest, nor was similar eagerness evinced. My object in inducing him to try the feat was to ascertain correctly the distance which the missile would carry. Mr Jones next tried it, but was unable to strike with it beyond a few feet. It seems to require long practice and skill of touch to use the bow and arrow as the Andamanese can use them. After this performance, we examined some nets which were being made for the Settlement, and then went through the married village; the women were all eager to catch a glimpse of the aborigines, but in nervous dread of encountering them, which, when Joe observed, with his usual pleasantry, he took advantage of to chase and terrify them, as they ran in all directions, into their houses. The Andamanese wished to carry away with them some native children, making signs, by tender endearments, that they would treat them well and kindly.

Mr. Jones now brought some muskets and pistols and shewed the Andamanese their effects on birds and trunks of trees. They were alarmed



and ran to me for protection, hiding themselves behind me and supplicating my assistance. I allowed a few shots to be fired, which I hoped would produce a wholesome impression of our power and means of deadly destruction. Some elephants were next brought, at the sight of which the Andamanese were completely terrified, running away from them and climbing up trees and hiding behind rocks. The elephants were made to lift logs of wood and fling them across a road, at which the Andamanese shouted their astonishment; they were amazed and surprised to see the docility with which the huge elephant, King John, obeyed the order to roar, when its trunk was struck. Mr. Jones then brought the great animal on its haunches and mounted it; and Joe and Jacko were afterwards induced to do so also, but as soon as it again rested they quickly alighted with a roar of delight at being safely deposited. I can perceive, by the signs made by the other savages, that they have been describing to their tribes all these strange adventures, which it is to be hoped may have the effect of striking awe into them, and restraining them from molesting us.

Mr. Jones now observed to me that there was on the shore of a fresh water creek, opposite Chatham, a very unfriendly tribe of aborigines, and that he had seen a huge fire burning in their camp the night before. I had also seen it. Mr. Jones said that this tribe showed great hostility to us, and at different times had killed many convicts; that our people never approached their shore without being shot at. I at once proposed to take my Andamanese friends with presents of fruit and try the effect on the other tribe of friendly overtures. I accordingly proceeded with my armed party, and Mr. Jones in another boat also with an armed party. We rested on our oars about 100 yards from the shore, where the smoke of their fire could be seen. Three of the savages peeped from under the bush, but came no further. I threw out some fruit, which floated. Our Andamanese shouted to the others in their own language, holding up bunches of plantains, but to no purpose. After remaining there for about half an hour, and using every inducement we could by signs and gestures, we left; and I afterwards heard that on the following day the tribe struck their camp which had been there for many months, and have



abandoned the place altogether. We next went on to Chatham Island and visited the 5 H. P. Saw Mill. The noise of machinery and sight of volumes of smoke greatly frightened the aborigines. They looked curiously at the process of cutting wood, but could not be persuaded to go near the steam funnel, which they probably looked upon as some huge instrument of destruction.

I again visited North Point on Friday, the 26th June. Colonel Tytler kindly lent his boat and sent with me a crew of the Naval Brigade. Joe accompanied us as guide, and we took to the savages the usual presents of fruits, yams, and biscuits. Only three women could be seen on the North Point, one of them being the ferocious old woman who has been described as evincing towards us cannibal propensities. She came out to meet us, and to our surprise seated herself in the boat and made signs to take her to Ross Island. I directed Conner to steer further northward, and we landed at Middle Camp, where no aborigines were visible. Three sailors were left with strict orders not to allow Joe and the old woman, whom they called "Mamma," to escape from the boat; neither of them, however, during the long interval of our absence, showed a disposition to do so. We walked along the shore to the chief coast camp, where we met some aborigines, an old man supposed to be the husband of "Mamma," the man known as Crusoe, who was formerly taken as a hostage to Moulmein, and a few others. After a short stay there, during which no incident of interest happened, we returned and they voluntarily accompanied us. We found on our return to our boat another Andamanese, whom I had not seen before, who had been attracted by Joe's shouts of "Mio," "Rogo." Immediately that we embarked the old man and Crusoe made an attempt to seize our bags of provisions, and were preparing to spring with them into the water, when I seized both of them with a strong grip by their necks and held them down. The old woman, taking advantage of the scuffle, and the confusion of the sailors in a strong surf driving us on the beach, jumped into the water with a bunch of plantains, but Conner at my orders brought her forcibly back again much to her disgust. (Mr. Corbyn showed great tact and discretion in his actions with them. In thus firmly restrain-



ing them, without showing resentment or punishing them, he did exactly right.—*M. V. P.*)

On the arrival of these eight new comers on Ross Island occurred the scene which I have already described of the peaceful assemblage of 28 of the aborigines at the Andaman Home. During the day a pig was given to them by Colonel Tytler, which it was intended they should share; but the new party, who belonged, it would seem, to a separate tribe, and who occupied, while they were here, a separate hut in the Andaman Home, appropriated the pig, and none of the others disputed their claim, but quietly looked on at their preparations for the repast from an opposite *machan*. I invited all to share the feast, but Snowball and Jumbo's party resolutely held aloof. Jingo at my order killed the pig, but immediately that he had done so left it to the new comers, who, as subsequent circumstances convinced me belonged to a more powerful and superior tribe. (They belonged to another Sept of the same Tribe.—*M. V. P.*) I also noticed that the wailing that had hitherto always taken place between the prisoners and new aborigines visiting them was not attempted on the arrival of the last batch of savages; indeed there hardly passed between them the common signs of recognition. Snowball, Jumbo, and Topsy withdrew to a distance, as if purposely to avoid them, and the old woman, as soon as she entered their hut, stationed herself behind a post, and looked stealthily and suspiciously both at us and our guests, the other aborigines. The day's festivities and the perfect security they enjoyed appeared to have a mollifying effect on all, especially on the old woman whom Colonel and Mrs. Tytler were surprised to find, after my description, so timid and docile. All the party except Topsy and Jingo, who refused to leave the island, were despatched in a boat the same evening and safely landed at North Point. I should mention that one Andamanese among the last batch was identified as the man who, some months ago, on the mainland, had gashed the hand of a convict named David, for his (David's) refusal to yield up his umbrella. David, when he saw him here, went up to him and patted him on his cheek, while he was in full enjoyment of his feast; but the savage did not recognise him or pretended not



to recognise him. As soon as Crusoe and his party had left the compound, all who remained behind with Snowball and Jumbo rushed to the place where the others had been feasting and ravenously gathered up and devoured the remnants of the pig left. The man Crusoe has a gap in his front row of teeth, two of them having been knocked out, for some real or supposed provocation, by a sailor who had charge of him on the voyage from Moulmein.

I brought back from my visit to the chief camp on the 26th a painted human skull ornamented with beads, and many tortoise-shells of a rare species which were found lying in or near the aboriginal huts. They showed reluctance to part with the human skull, probably of a chief, and tried to recover it, but being required by Colonel Tytler to be sent to the Ethnological Society, for scientific purposes, I persuaded them to let me retain it. The next morning, Saturday, the 27th ultimo, I took over to North Point Topsy and Jingo, determined to let the aborigines see that none of them, except Snowball and Jumbo, were detained here against their will. Mr. Kitton, the Second Officer of the *Lady Canning*, Mr. Green, merchant, and some other Europeans, with a Native crew composed our party. Most of us landed. Jingo being ill was at once taken to the hut where he threw himself down near the fire. Topsy went to paint herself; all the other aborigines sat laughing and talking without the least symptom of distrust or alarm at our presence. With an axe and knives we cut a pathway up the hill. We had with us an Abyssinian, a stoker of the steamer *Lady Canning*, as black as the aborigines, with whom he at once fraternised; he was very useful to us in clearing the brushwood and directing our way through the jungle.

On the top of North Point Hill we came to table land, which the Abyssinian, who climbed up a tree on the hill, described as being a mile in length. It was covered with most luxuriant vegetation and trees of huge growth and size. A more commanding position to protect this Settlement cannot be imagined, nor is there in the whole harbour a more useful and important point. At present we do not hold a single point on the whole line of coast, from North Point up-



wards, which to the very skirt of the sea is covered with dense jungle, in which treacherous savages may conceal themselves, and small boats belonging to the Settlement driven, as may often happen, by stress of weather, on those rocks, are at the mercy of an ignorant and barbarous race, who may or may not continue friendly to us. There is good reason, from what we have seen, to believe that while we retain hostages they will abstain from acts of cruelty and bloodshed, but there is equal reason to suppose that if any of our people were by some accident to be thrown on their coast they would retaliate, and by a forced captivity of Natives or Europeans compel the surrender of the prisoners whom we have captured.

A gun of large calibre on the hill of North Point would command the whole harbour, and the very sound of it and the knowledge of its proximity would terrify the savages for miles around, and keep them in quiet submission or drive them into distant recesses. There is every probability that they will now gradually be brought to cultivate a friendly intercourse with us, and this might be greatly promoted by having a Settlement near them and not divided by the sea, to which they could resort with such articles of food as they procure in plenty, to exchange for other merchandise. We yet know little of their habits, but their sleek and full-bodied appearance testifies that, whatever their food, they have it in abundance. As to apprehensions of attacks on a Settlement at North Point, I believe they are utterly visionary. The savages have conceived such an exaggerated estimate of our capabilities of destruction, that twenty armed Natives or Europeans would put to instant flight a thousand of them, even assuming that they were not deterred from attacking us by fear of the wide-spread havoc we could carry into their homes, the slaughter of their wives and children!. I can understand that they might be tempted to prowl about our posts for plunder, but the first shot fired would drive them in wild terror into their jungles.

They imagine that we have infinite appliances of destruction. Colonel Tytler showed them one day a small pocket revolver with which he fired six bullets into a tree, and I felt some of them quake



with fear when they saw the dangerous and destructive effect of the tiny instrument.

They believe that I can kill them with a pistol-cap ; and if I point one at them, they implore me to desist, or at once jump out of the way in dread of what they suppose to be a deadly missile.

On our return to our boat we found Topsy and Bess and other Andamanese women and children seated there. I tried to remove Topsy, but she resolutely kept her seat, even struggling not to be left behind ; so we yielded to her wish, and indeed were only too glad to bring her back again. She laughed at her desire to baffle us in getting herself painted at their hut, for she and the other savages are no longer allowed to paint and tattoo themselves on Ross Island. Colonel Tytler very properly considering this a degrading and barbarous practice, has prohibited it.

(He was wrong. At that period their customs should not have been interfered with ; and the painting is a substitute for clothing, to leave off which exposes them to chills.—*M. V. P.*)

I have yet to describe our last expedition to the mainland. Last Monday morning, the 29th of June, three boats sailed from Ross for the mainland, carrying the Superintendent's crew of 13 armed Naval Brigadesmen, 12 Sappers and Miners, and many other Europeans and Natives. Colonel Tytler entrusted the conduct of the proceedings to me.

A pig and presents of plantains and biscuits were taken for the savages. As the cutter passed North Point the aborigines came running to the shore to meet us ; but seeing that our course lay northward, they followed us along the coast in the direction of their chief camp.

Our cutter sailed far ahead of the other two boats which were rowed by Natives. We arrived about half an hour before them at the camp, where we landed. The place seemed quite deserted, not even a single Andamanese, as we have usually found, keeping watch to give notice of our approach. One by one, however, the fastest runners who had been following us along the rocks, came up to the chief camp, and before the sepoys had landed there were about thirty



savages scattered over the beach. We all breakfasted hastily, and while we were doing so the Andamanese crowded round us, looking wistfully at our food, and by stealth or entreaty getting what they could; so importunate did they become, that I was obliged to place Sepoys round me to guard my food. At the sight of some broiled bacon put before me they gave a tumultuous yell, and all danced shouting and waving their arms in a circle round me. The sailors and others most liberally distributed their food; in fact the poor men went almost without their meals through the rapacity of the savages; the latter might be seen running like a pack of hungry dogs from one group to another wherever most food tempted them. One of the sailors lent my pruning knife to a savage who begged the loan of it for some purpose; and as soon as the sailor had turned his attention to some other matter went off and concealed it. On being asked for it, he at first pretended to have lost it, but seeing our firm determination to recover it, he took us to a tree and disinterred it from the trunk. We now proceeded on our journey into the interior, our object being to discover their chief inland camp. I gave directions to Conner to leave two sailors in the cutter with strict orders to remain there, and to keep their own and the other two boats at some distance from the shore. I also directed two other sailors and two Sepoys to remain on the beach in charge of the muskets of the other ten Sappers and Miners, who might, in the event of a disturbance require their muskets, but could not conveniently carry them, as they were marching through the jungle felling wood with their axes. I ordered the two sailors left on the beach to fire a pistol, the report of which would warn us in case of any untoward occurrence. I impressed strongly on all the party who accompanied me the necessity of keeping close together, with a watchful eye on all sides of the jungle. I also directed our party to take each an Andamanese by the hand, and to take the utmost care that none of them escaped even if we were attacked, as they would be useful as hostages and ensure our safety. We made the Andamanese carry the pig and plantains, which we promised them as a reward at the end of the journey. We carried with us a bag of biscuits, from which we kept feeding them



all along the road; and when we had proceeded about three miles, to avoid irritating them, we relieved them of their weights of plantains and the pig, which we made our servants carry. We followed their inland road; two sailors with half-cocked muskets going on in front and the Sappers and Miners following them cutting so vigorously, that a really good road was formed through the narrowest part of which four or five could march abreast. One of the savages caused me much annoyance; he was under charge of Mr. Kitton, who found much difficulty in managing him and preventing his escape, that I took him under my care, and holding him tightly by the hand made him walk along with me. The aboriginal road brought us to a stream about fifteen yards wide, which I suppose is dry in all but rainy weather. The aborigines wished us to take a southerly direction, pointing to their camp; but suspecting that they might be wishing to mislead, I preferred to follow the course of the stream which I intended, if possible, to trace to its source. This was discovered about four miles in the interior, the water, gushing from a hill above, which we determined to ascend. As we walked through the stream, the Andamanese with me stopped to lift rocks in the water, and as my curiosity was excited by the eager way in which he did so I called natives to assist him, and to our surprise he pulled out from under the rocks large fresh water prawns, which he eat just as they were entire. This man, about a mile from the top of the hill, suddenly snatched his hand out of mine, with a force which almost flung me on the ground, and plunged into the woods, shouting loudly as he went. Some of our party chased him, but I immediately gave the alarm and summoned all together, cautioning all to hold in a firmer grasp the other hostages. The man who had escaped had a most revolting cast of countenance, every type of villainy stamped on his face, and it was quite possible that he might be up to mischief. I declared my intention to seize him if I again saw him. I then took Jacko, who was just behind me, by the hand and explained to him that if any of us were shot at he should suffer instant death. We soon after reached the top of the hill from which we caught a glimpse of the ocean. An effort was made to climb one of the highest



trees, but it failed for want of proper ropes and ladders. We marched that day through the jungles at least five miles, and formed a road of that length, which I should think will greatly astonish the savages. Each side of it was left densely covered with the boughs of trees and brushwood which had been cut down in our march. With such laborious manual exertions, and the fatigue attending them, it was clearly impossible to make any observations as to the character of the country and products; but we have at least rendered facilities for others who may follow us, and it is something to say that we have been five miles into the interior of these jungles into which no European perhaps penetrated as many yards before. We left our mark on a tree on the top of the hill. On returning, we met the savage who had escaped, and taking him by the hand I quietly brought him back to the camp again, and took no other notice of his conduct.

As we were returning, about a mile from the camp, a sailor with his musket on his shoulder was going first and I was next to him, when in an instant a savage sprang from behind a tree with a loud yell and seized the sailor by the neck; then threw his arms round him clasping him firmly musket and all, and looking him in the face gave a loud laugh as much as to say "what a fright I have given you; "you see how we savages can spring on an enemy from the bush." The poor sailor was taken quite aghast, but quickly re-assured when he saw it was playful Joe, with whose pranks they are all familiar.

(This is the first recorded ascent of Mount Harriett.—*M. F. P.*)

Numbers of the aborigines, apparently of different tribes, joined us from all parts of the jungle on our way back. We could even see them on the tops of trees watching our movements. They seemed quite re-assured at seeing us come back peaceably without doing them any injury.

I have now, however, to turn to a more unfavourable aspect of the day's business. When we brought back the pig I gave my dagger to Joe and told him to cut the pig in two, keeping half for his tribe and giving the rest to the other tribe dwelling at the chief camp. Joe took the dagger and began to cut the pig. I walked to the sea



to brush off the leeches with which my legs were covered. On my return Joe had given up the pig to Crusoe who was roasting it over a fire. Joe himself was seated on a trunk of a tree watching the proceedings. When I asked for my dagger he pretended not to remember where he had placed it; then made other excuses that some one else had taken it; then pretended that he had concealed it, and would bring it back, and wished to go and look for it in the jungle. The other savages came to intercede and make excuses. I held Joe firmly and demanded instant restitution of my property. It was not that I in the least valued my dagger, for I would give much to preserve a good understanding with the aborigines; but having witnessed their grasping disposition in the morning, and feeling that it was incompatible with the maintenance of a friendly intercourse, that Natives especially would never in their relations with these savages tolerate such barbarous infringement of their rights, I determined to check it at the outset, and therefore to make an example of Joe, if the dagger was not produced. The savages seeing my resolution and the change which had come over the scene, as both Europeans and Natives had orders to make preparations to embark if the dagger was not soon given up, began gradually to disperse till only Crusoe and one or two others of the less timid ones were left on the beach. I told the Sepoys and Natives that there was likely to be a disturbance with the aborigines and ordered them to embark, an order which they obeyed with alacrity. I then ordered the sailors into the cutter, and just as all the boats were ready to start, with another European I seized Joe, and forcibly putting him into the boat shoved out and all set off together. We also carried away the pig and all the plantains. Not a single shot had been fired the whole day either in jest or earnest, and there was nothing but this unhappy affair to mar the pleasure of the excursion. Joe wanted us to go near North Point assuring us that the dagger would be given up there. We did so. At least a hundred savages must have been at the Point; they offered us bows and arrows which we refused, and then they made signs that they would bring the dagger. We returned to Ross and reported all the circumstances to Colonel Tytler. Joe was placed during the night between



two natives as a guard in a separate hut in the Andaman Home, but not before he had time to explain to all the other aborigines there what had happened. Topsy assured me that if I took her over in the morning she would bring the dagger. I, therefore, did so; but as the savages, instead of the dagger, brought only bows and arrows, I left Topsy and returned. I felt confident that the dagger would be given up, but it seemed an admirable opportunity to teach Joe and the others a lesson in equity and moral justice for their future good behaviour. He was, therefore, by Colonel Tytler's orders put into fetters; but as he tried, either in play or earnest, to strike the carpenter who was fastening them, his hands were also tied behind him, but this part of the punishment was remitted about an hour after. About noon, I again went for Topsy. There were now very few to be seen on the beach, but through a telescope we could see Jacko flourishing my dagger; when we approached nearer he swam out and delivered it up to me, and then "Topsy" and other women and children came into the boat and returned with us to Ross Island. I kept them all with me on the shore till I had sent for the ironsmith, who accompanied me to the Andaman Home and struck off the fetters from Joe before them all, while I held the dagger before Joe to show him that his purloining had been the cause of his imprisonment, and that the restitution of it now was the cause of his release. The good results of this firm treatment of the aborigines has already become apparent.

I have been to North Point, and amongst the Andamanese, since the occurrences above related, and the good understanding with them which was temporarily suspended, is quite restored.

(Mr. Corbyn's conduct in the above affair of the dagger was perfectly correct.—*M. V. P.*)

On this narrative the Government of India remark that they have read it with great interest, and will be glad to hear from time to time reports of the further progress, made by the meritorious exertions of the Reverend Mr. Corbyn, towards establishing friendly relations with the Andamanese, and obtaining any real and reliable information as



take across and land him on the mainland, giving him on his arrival there some small presents, and to his tribe two pigs and other provisions to celebrate his release. We accordingly sailed across about noon and approached the coast directly opposite Middle Camp. On our way to it we passed North Point, where smoke issued from the jungle, and two Andamanese were seen, but held timidly aloof from us. As we entered the bay opposite their camp, some of them responded to our calls and signalled to us to land, while the Andamanese in the boat held up fruit and invited them to swim to us. We could see crowds of aborigines assembled under cover of thick bushes on the beach; they had apparently come down in large masses, as if expecting some hostile demonstration, and most of them silently watched us at a secure distance, and acted as they always do when uncertain of our temper and suspicious of our designs. They were divided into two large bodies separated by a thick clump of trees, those on the left or south side were chiefly full grown and athletic men headed by Crusoe, and the others on the right, apparently a reserve guard, protecting the women and children who were squatted in dense masses under newly-made huts, which on subsequent inspection were found to form the largest collective camp which we have yet seen on the coast. Before starting I had directed the coxswain to keep out our cutter at a greater distance than usual from the shore, as I had anticipated some such scene as we now witnessed betokening distrust and alarm on the part of the savages, in consequence of the intimations of our displeasure, and the warnings which I had expected and intended should be conveyed to them by Topsy. Topsy herself was amongst the crowd, but held back, or was probably kept back by the rest, in apprehension of some disaster. As our mission was of a peaceful and friendly character, and a demonstration of displeasure could no longer be maintained consistently with the object in view, which was to celebrate with suitable rejoicing the release of their Chief, Snowball, we did our utmost to allay their alarm by exhibiting gifts and making the usual signs of kind intentions and a friendly disposition towards them. As a measure of caution, however, before distributing the presents, I called to them



to swim out to us with bows and arrows, a large number of which were collected, and would have been delivered to the Superintendent as property of Government had they not been appropriated by the sailors before I had time to secure them, as soon as we returned to Ross Island.

(The Naval Brigadesmen seem to have been very undisciplined, and were as usual troublesome and disorderly—*M. V. P.*)

The squeaking of the pigs which the sailors held up served as the best bait of all to attract the savages. They shouted and danced wildly, and unable to resist the spell plunged through the surf and soon surrounded the boat, throwing in their bows and arrows, and calling "Mio," "Rogo," and as soon as they were in the boat seized the pigs and gloated savagely over them.

To our surprise the news of Snowball's release and his presence in the boat excited no general sensation. One of the Andamanese, a man of some age, whom I had not seen before, hugged and wailed over him, but there was not on this as on previous occasions a chorus of noisy weepers: even the solitary mourner, as soon as his sorrow was quenched, appeared to forget all about it, and wiping away the semblance of tears, pounced greedily upon a bag of biscuits, in the process of lightening which he shewed an appetite truly prodigious, and which had apparently not suffered from recent emotion.

(Mr. Corbyn does not seem to have understood that there was no question of grief, but that the Andamanese cry when meeting after a long separation, from joy. Further, as Snowball had been absent for long, and under serious circumstances, it was not etiquette for the general body of the Andamanese to cry over him until some hours after his arrival, the crying when once started probably lasting all night.—*M. V. P.*)

Though Snowball's return produced no great sensation, a few of them showed great tenderness in the care with which they treated him, nursing him in their arms and on their laps, and pinching and pressing his side to ease the pain from which he was suffering. To make certain of his release, they were preparing to stealthily remove