



to their numbers, and as to the existence of any chief or chiefs by whom authority is exercised among them.

Great caution was, however, to be observed in sending exploring expeditions into the interior. The expedition, as related by Mr Corbyn, seems to have subjected a small and comparatively helpless party to the risk of being attacked by an overwhelming number of natives, and the arrangements made for the protection of the arms left on the beach were of questionable sufficiency had any attack on the guard been made.

An allowance of one hundred rupees per mensem was sanctioned for the Andaman Home. A ticket-of-leave convict named J. Peterson was in charge of this Home under Mr. Corbyn, and seems to have gained the affection of the Andamanese, and to have done good work.



CHAPTER XI.

Narrative No. 2, by Mr. Corbyn, with notes—His expeditions into the interior with the Andamanese, and his gradual taming of them—Naval Brigadesmen in trouble at Chiriya Tāpu—Children taught—Habits of the Andamanese—Stories of Andamanese kidnapped, etc.—Sir Robert Napier's visit to the Andamans.

THE release of Joe inspired the other two captives, Jumbo and Snowball, with hopes of liberation for which they now renewed their entreaties.

Last Saturday (the 4th July, 1863), an untoward circumstance again made it necessary for me to visit the mainland. Two escaped convicts were brought to Ross, who had been ill-treated and shot at by the aborigines, and one of them so badly wounded that no hope was entertained of his recovery. Soon after the death of Pratt, a man of the Naval Brigade who had been killed by the aborigines, acts of cruel hostility to the Settlement on the part of the latter were of almost daily occurrence. (This seems to be an exaggeration; no such acts are mentioned in Colonel Tytler's reports—*M. V. P.*); but since the imprisonment of Snowball and Jumbo, and the friendly visits of the tribe, they had almost or altogether ceased. It, therefore, caused much surprise when the two convicts Nahser and Davy appeared here, one with bruises and a slight wound in the right side and the other with a severe and almost mortal wound in the head, alleged to have been made by arrows shot at them by Andamanese supposed to be on friendly terms with us. Their account was that they had escaped from Aberdeen and gone on by Haddo beyond Viper, whence they floated on a raft to the opposite coast, and walked round North Point to a place, which, by their description, must have been Chief Camp, where they met many of the aborigines. They said that the savages at North Point had forcibly deprived them of their food, and others at Chief Camp had seized a brass vessel from one of them; that on Tuesday, the 30th of June, which was the very day after our visit to Chief Camp, and the same day on which the



dagger was delivered up, some of the savages, after completely denuding them, wantonly and deliberately shot at them; that their imploring gestures and frantic supplications to them to desist had no effect in curbing their relentless barbarity; and that the Andamanese women looked on unmoved, or with savage delight, at the cruelties practised upon them.

On receiving these accounts the Superintendent considered it necessary to make the Andamanese in our possession (!) understand that such acts of inhumanity would no longer be tolerated; and as I had before succeeded in imparting a clear impression to their minds, which led to the recovery of my dagger, he desired me now to make them distinctly understand that the repetition of these cruelties would provoke summary retribution; that the lives of Natives belonging to this Settlement were to be as much respected as the lives of Europeans; and that we were determined to protest them.

(The men were convicts and had no business to run away. Though the savages carried their treatment of them too far, it was a mistake to avenge the ill-treatment of these men with the same severity as if they had been free Europeans of the Settlement. For disciplinary reasons it was preferable for the convicts to imagine that the aborigines would always ill-treat and murder them, as it would check their escapes—*M. V. P.*)

There was but one way of making the idea intelligible to their minds, and that method I adopted. I sent for Jumbo and his wife Topsy, and for Joe and Jacko. I took them towards the Native hospital. I had a bow and arrow in my hand and also an unloaded pistol. The Native who was slightly wounded was with me. About halfway to the hospital from a hill we could see North Point and Chief Camp. I called their attention to the wound on the body of the Native, showed them with the bow and arrow how it had been inflicted, and then pointed to their camp, telling them as well as I could in disconnected words of their language that he had been wounded by their tribe. I then pointed the pistol by turns at Jumbo, Joe, and Jacko, still making signs to them that their clan had shot the Native,



and by my angry and menacing gestures making them quake with the horrible fear that their lives were in instant peril. Topsy made frantic gestures, which I understood to imply that her tribe was not at fault, that it was another tribe, pointing southward, and when the Native indicated that it had been done at Chief Camp, she still, assenting to what he said, resolutely pointed southwards, as much as to say that it had been done beyond North Point, but by one of the aborigines belonging to the Southern Tribe. She also made unmistakable signs, which were interpreted in that view by other persons present, that if we would send her over, she would bring to us the man who had shot the Native, and pointing to Jumbo's chains made us understand that we could then put him in irons. At the hospital, I showed them the man who had been so severely wounded, exhibiting his wound, and again going through the pantomime described, which I did with much reluctance, as Jumbo was so agitated with fear that he could hardly stand, and Topsy covered him with her body to shield him from harm; but it was a case on which human life depended and which demanded extreme actions, and I felt that it was better to cause momentary terror to these reckless and ruthless savages than any longer to allow the lives of unoffending persons to be exposed to their cruel caprices and brutal love of butchery.

By Colonel Tytler's order Topsy was taken to North Point the same afternoon, after I made her understand that she was expressly sent to detect and bring back the perpetrators of the crime. With the utmost confidence in her sagacity, intelligence, and good and friendly disposition, I confess that I entertained no hope of her redeeming her promise, which was unnatural to expect, nor that anything could prompt her to such treachery but the superior motive of devotion to her husband and alarm for his safety.

The arrival next day of the steamer *Arracan* with despatches from Government completely changed the programme of proceedings and compelled the adoption of a different line of action with regard to the aborigines. Colonel Tytler having received orders from Government to liberate Snowball, desired me on Monday, the 5th, to



and carry him from the boat, but I intercepted their plans as soon as I observed them by taking hold of Snowball and keeping him securely till I could land him and give him up myself, without yielding to force or stratagem. After making ineffectual attempts to reach the shore at Middle Camp, which we were unable to do on account of the heavy surf, which would have drenched our clothes and fire-arms, we steered towards North Point, intending to land at a temporary camp which they had formed there, and made signs to them to follow us.

All the aborigines whom we had brought from Ross had already swum ashore, but we had now about twelve others in the boat, some of whom, as soon as our anchor was weighed, jumped over, and the rest in their suspicion were almost inclined to do so, but remained probably interested in Snowball's fate, and probably also in the pigs and provisions. The crowds on shore at first refused to follow, and sat sullenly on the beach, as before, watching our movements with suspicion. But the squeaking of the pigs again proved irresistible, and before we had turned North Point the whole coast was crowded, and on landing we were surrounded by men, women, and children, all clamouring for the food we brought them, and so eager to get it that it required the utmost vigilance and firmness of the guard to prevent their snatching away the bags before they were even landed.

Snowball's friends were allowed to carry him on shore, and they immediately deposited him in one of their huts, close to a smouldering fire, where a few of them remained rubbing his sides and tending him with much care and kindness. He had been suffering for some days from a low fever common to the aborigines, and on the previous day had been attended by the Civil Surgeon, who administered an emetic, and afterwards some quinine mixture, which had a favourable effect; and we hoped that his release and return to his friends, and the application of remedies used by his people, and to which he was accustomed, would speedily restore his health. The young shoots of the mangrove, which are bitter, are said to possess tonic properties, and it is supposed that the aborigines use them when suffering from fever or other debilitating diseases. (They do not use them.—*M. V. P.*)



The food which we brought absorbed their attention to the exclusion of Snowball and every other object. Two goats which had died from natural causes, and which the aborigines in the Home refused to eat, had been brought, and were devoured. As a matter of economy, it is desirable that the Andamanese by eating them should relieve the Settlement of defunct cattle and other refuse commodities.

(They are usually very particular about eating such things.—*M. V. P.*)

It was a satisfactory sign of the confidence of this tribe in our clemency and good faith that Snowball was not immediately carried to a place of concealment, but allowed to remain in the hut in which they had placed him during the hour or two that we were on shore watching their proceedings, and that on the following day, when we visited them at Chief Camp, he was again there, and no disposition was shewn to conceal him from us, or to remove him when we landed.

The Andamanese mode of killing pigs has been so often described that it is needless to repeat the description here. It is enough to say that, as we refused to lend them knives, they used a piece of sharpened bamboo, and made the incision on the right side of the throat, and not as they usually do through the heart first by a slit with a piece of glass across the skin, and then a deep thrust into the vital part with a sharp pointed prong of bamboo.

While the feast was proceeding a canoe was seen approaching, and soon four aborigines came up with bows and arrows, which they readily gave up to the sailors. They seemed to be of another tribe, of somewhat different form and features, and their chief, a man of fine appearance, sturdy and erect, and taller than all the others. Topsy pointed to him, and made signs to me to bring him to Ross Island, which I understood to mean that he was the person who had been guilty of the offence, for which we sent her to warn the aborigines, of shooting at the escaped convicts, but I was unwilling to take advantage of that occasion for his forcible arrest, by which I should again have awakened their alarm and suspicion, and especially under such doubtful conjectures of his guilt, as it seemed quite possible



that Topsy might wish to make him an innocent victim to screen the real offender. I hoped, too, that even if her information proved correct, some other more favourable opportunity would occur to detect and apprehend him. I, therefore, merely directed the sailors to endeavour to coax him to go with us, not pointedly, nor singly, but in company with others; and with a view to make an agreeable impression on the chief of a new tribe, I showed him many marks of civility and kindness. I dissuaded the sailors from going to examine their canoe, in order to avoid everything that might excite their apprehension. The aborigines might be induced to come to the Settlement in their canoes if they felt that these were safe, and that none of their property would be molested, but so many canoes have been taken from them in former times, that they are now afraid to shew them, and draw them up creeks, and hide them in the jungles when they see us coming, and while these fears last our visits must always occasion them inconvenience and anxiety.

I consider it a curious circumstance that in all our experience of these people we have not observed a single instance of bickering or disputing between them. I have never heard a cross word from one Andamanese to another, nor seen a movement of the countenance which would indicate anger or displeasure of one towards another. If one asks anything of another it is at once yielded, either as if there was an understood reason for the request, or that it was backed by force of acknowledged and indisputable authority. Whatever their form of government and the internal economy of their arrangements there is a most perfect subordination of all to some head or controlling power, and an order prevails which can be the result only of a system of prescribed rules, and which shows that they are not wanting in method and organization.

(The system is a real communism, and the governing power is the general fear of the resentment of the other, which would lead him to commit murder.—*M. V. P.*)

The Andamanese, Crusoe, is always the most busy and energetic, and, if possible, the most grasping. He prepared the repast, saw to the cleaning and cooking of the pigs and goats, and appropriated the



largest share of choicest pieces. He has a harsh but stentorian voice, which he exerts to its full force when excited; he shows excitement by striking his back (?) with his clenched hand, waving his arm over his head, and by other violent gestures. Many of the Andamanese have a habit of striking their breasts with great force under emotions of pain or pleasure. (It is a gesture of surprise.—*M. V. P.*)

They carried away the pig's entrails, and also the rice and biscuits, in bundles of leaves fastened with creepers. Some of them remained that night at North Point, as we could see by their fires, and no doubt enjoyed a grand repast and entertainment. When we were preparing to return, some of them showed an inclination to accompany us, but did not eventually do so, preferring as we supposed the feast which we had provided for them at their own encampment. We have seen enough of them now to know that when we wish them to return with us it is advisable to go to them without provisions, for we must admit the unflattering fact that it is not any particular love of us, but chiefly the greed of food which tempts them to the Settlement.

On Wednesday, the 10th instant, I again went with some officers of Her Majesty's Steamer *Arracan* to visit the aborigines at Middle Camp. There was a large concourse of men and boys on the beach, and in a recess in the jungle, at a short distance from the shore, a number of newly made huts, under each of which were huddled together some eight or ten members of a family. Most of them were covered all over with daubs of red paint, varied with white patches. I wished to obtain some of this paint, but they either did not understand me, or were unwilling to let me see the ingredients from which they formed it. One of the officers afterwards told me that he saw a lump of a hard substance from which it was made that looked like gum. The paint is most probably obtained from the bark of some tree; it is very sticky, and seems to be mixed with pig's grease, and cleaves so firmly to the skin that it is difficult to wash it off even while moist.

(The hard substance was a lump of resin, used for making torches, and not for making paint. The latter is not obtained from



a tree, but is a burnt earth, mixed with pig's fat, or turtle oil.—*M. V. P.*)

There was a great number of old people, male and female, in the camp and five or six babies, the youngest could not have been more than four or five days born. The aborigines have a pathway into the interior, but the thorny bushes, through which only these nimble islanders can twine their way, rendered it difficult for us to proceed far along it. It would be interesting to trace it at a future time with a party of Native Sappers. In each hut we saw a lot of pigs skulls suspended to the roof by twine, which seemed, from the value which they attached to them, to have been hung up there as trophies. (They were.—*M. V. P.*) The fact that we found there no other skulls, but those of turtles and human skulls, confirms the supposition that there are no esculent mammalia, except pigs, in their jungles.

They were ready to eat anything, for we brought in our boat a basket of dead ducks which they had not noticed at first, and which when found they took away with great delight.

I had an opportunity of seeing the good effect of the admonition given to Joe on the rest of his tribe. One of them, who was a stranger to me, was watching his opportunity to appropriate a penknife which I had lent him, when another, guessing his intention, whispered some words in his ear, and without my giving the slightest hint that I wanted my knife back again, he at once closed the blade and handed it over to me.

I was glad to see signs of improvement in their manner towards us, and of a more friendly disposition in the spontaneous readiness with which they helped us to land, carrying us through the surf on their backs, and also any bundles or other weights which we chose to entrust to them. They also bring through the jungles without demur any loads which we put upon them, carrying them for us safely, and break and remove the branches which lie in our way, and most carefully pluck off the thorns and brambles, which sometimes stick to us, and which are so sharp that only their hard and nimble fingers can safely grasp them.

In my former report I remarked on the sleek and robust ap-



pearance of many of the Andamanese; but we have since met with others who are not so well fed and thriving. Some indeed are painfully emaciated in appearance. Hunger sharpens their rapacity, and the sight of food makes them almost ferocious in their eagerness to obtain it, and may often have stimulated them to deeds of plunder and cruel violence. It is still a debated question whether the natives of these islands are cannibals. It is, of course, impossible to argue from the presence of human skulls near their dwellings, since these may be merely valued relics of their own deceased kinsmen, except that some are as large as the skulls of ordinary human beings, and too large to be in proportion to their diminutive bodies; but still skulls and other remains of deceased persons of another race, possibly trophies of slaughtered enemies, may be found about their encampments without establishing the fact of their cannibalism. What lends, however, most strength to the supposition, is the fact of the great strait to which in certain seasons, or at some antecedent period, they may have been reduced by hunger, and thus a relish has been acquired which might engender the horrible practice. The love of raw flesh (?) is another presumption in favour of the supposition. Their object in singeing a pig, for it cannot be called roasting, seems not to be to cook it, but to warm the skin and render it soft, so as the more easily to scrape off all the bristle, which they do with a sharpened bamboo, turning it from side to side and scraping as it sings. Their cooking of the goats occupied only one or two minutes, and it would probably have been dispensed with altogether had I not pointed to the fire and suggested the advantage of a little roasting. We gave them a bag of condemned biscuits which had been thoroughly soaked with salt water, and so long lying in the Commissariat store-rooms that they had formed into lumps which were mildewed and filled with maggots. The savages pryed into the bag, and when they saw its contents, wished to carry it away forcibly; and when we afterwards emptied it, there was a general scramble, and hands, and leaves, and baskets were all brought into requisition to gather up the last soiled morsels. (The pig and goats would be afterwards boiled, before being eaten.—*M. V. P.*).



The Andamanese set great value on all rope and net-work. Beads which are only ornamental, are not so much cared for. The bunches of beads which were given to Snowball I afterwards saw adorning Jacko's person, fastened round his waist and forming a belt which he had plastered all over with red paint, so that none of the original colours of the beads could be distinguished. Some of the women had pieces of white muslin tied round their heads; they must have had them some time in their possession, for they never to my knowledge carried away any muslin from the Settlement. Flannel and other clothing, which they might be supposed to care for, they not only do not appreciate, but tear to pieces and throw away. In walking through the jungles I pulled out of the mud a pair of flannel drawers which I had given to one of them, and which had been cut up and trampled in the dirt. The Andamanese discard all covering, and wear only as distinctive badges (?) bands formed of their jungle rope, and ornamented with painted pig's bones, round their brows and waists; but the women, even their youngest female children, are never seen altogether naked; their waistbands are larger than those worn by the men, and they can always be distinguished at a distance by the bunches of dry grass or fibre which hang from their waists behind, and in front they have a small covering of green leaves tightly fastened to their waist-belts. I have never seen in either the men or women the least sign of indelicacy; the women are quite modest, but at the same time confiding, free, and familiar; they will place their arms round our necks, sit on our laps, rest their heads in close contact with our faces in a way that the uninitiated would consider most amorous, and take many other sportive and harmless liberties, but in the most perfect guilelessness, and without a single conscious thought of doing anything out of course or unbecoming. Their husbands though, as was terribly shewn in the unhappy case of the murder of a European, tenacious of the honour of their women, show no uneasiness or jealousy in the freedom with which they treat us, as if too simple, or too confiding to suspect improper motives.

The Andamanese seem to assign no particular department of work



to their women; the latter usually remain in the camp with the children, taking care of their huts and property, while the men are on the chase or fishing. We have sometimes found not more than eight or ten men at the Chief Camp, and these generally the oldest and most sickly, and when we have asked the cause of the absence of the rest, they have pointed to the jungles with words and gestures signifying that most of their tribe had gone into the interior on hunting excursions in search of their favourite "Kogo." Jingo informed me that there was plenty of the latter in the jungles opposite Middle Camp. The number of sick in their camp that we have seen in recent visits shews that with all their hardy habits and simple and primitive mode of living, the damp and malarious climate of the Andamans tries even their robust constitutions very severely. It seems a matter of surprise to some persons that so much sickness should prevail amongst Europeans and Natives on the sea-girt island which we occupy, but they would no longer wonder at it if they could see the effect of the South-West Monsoon on the aborigines who have inhabited these islands through many generations, and who it might be supposed would be thoroughly acclimatised and inured to the changing and inclement seasons. The most curious fact is that they appear to enjoy better health on their own selected swampy grounds, and under their half exposed and feebly protected dwellings, than on this island, which is cleared of all jungle, and where they have the comfort of a well-ventilated and thoroughly water-tight house, raised about three feet from the ground, besides the advantage of ample clothing, warm blankets, and simple and wholesome food, with no work to do, but learning the alphabet, and walking exercise *ad libitum*.

(On Ross Island they were always exposed to the wind without the shelter of the jungle in which the full force and effect of the wind is never felt; they were not permitted to paint themselves with their oily pigments which afforded their skins a protection against chills; they used clothing to which they were not accustomed, and which they threw off when they felt hot and thus got chilled; they had a changed diet which affected their stomachs, and a changed life which affected their minds; and they were thus, and by inaction so



different from their active jungle life, predisposed to illness. *M. V. P.*)

They suffer most from coughs and colds, ague, fever, and severe headache. It is thought that their "tattooing" is for a sanitary purpose, for they always wish to do it to their people here when they are suffering from any illness. (Mr. Corbyn confounds the "bleeding" which is done in sickness to relieve inflammation, and "tattooing" which is for ornament only—*M. V. P.*)

As a remedy for illness it is a very barbarous and cruel one. (No doubt, but what would the doctors in Europe fifty years before have said to Mr. Corbyn for this remark—*M. V. P.*)

Jumbo had his leg tattooed by Topsy more than a month ago, and he has ever since suffered extreme pain from the sores which are still raw and bloody.

I now proceed to a brief account of two subsequent visits to the mainland, which afforded further opportunities of improving our acquaintance with the aborigines.

The object of the first was to carry back to their homes some Andamanese children, and to endeavour once more to find a passage to a supposed encampment in the interior.

Some officers of the *Arracan* accompanied the party, which was composed of the usual guard of Naval Brigade men and some men of the Sappers under command of Captain Wetherall.

On our arrival at Chief Camp we found only a few Andamanese in the huts; the head-quarters of the tribe had been moved to an encampment further to the north, to which, later in the day, we followed them.

Before commencing our journey we cleared a wide space in front of the beach by cutting down a tree which had spread its branches over the sand, and which, while it remained there, formed a covert, under shelter of which the aborigines could aim at us with their bows and arrows without our seeing them, while we were exposed to their attack in our boats or on the beach. On a former occasion, when there appeared some danger of an encounter with them, a



number of them rushed behind this tree and took up a position of defence there, as if aware of the advantage which it gave them in the event of a disturbance; and they would then probably have shot at some of us if we had not taken one of them a prisoner, and held him before us to cover our retreat.

This done, we pursued the inland route, along the road formerly cleared by the Sappers; but afterwards finding marks of a track branching into another direction, we followed it in hope that it might lead to an encampment, in which we were not disappointed; for, after we had proceeded about two miles, we suddenly came upon a party of aborigines grouped together in a cleared enclosure, which was so thickly surrounded with jungle that it was not till we were within a few yards of it that we saw the smoke of their fire; and we might, even at that distance, have passed it by unnoticed had not our course lain across a stream above which the smoke issued.

They remained quite silent till we came close to them, as if playfully or for some reason, wishing to conceal themselves; they then jumped up and came towards us, seeming much amused that we had found out their hiding place. Jingo and Jacko, who were of the number, but so grotesquely painted that we could not recognise their features, explained to us that they had just returned from hunting, but apparently without success, as there were no pig bones, nor remains of food on the ground; they had taken the precaution to put away their weapons and other property, but, on our promising not to follow them, they fetched us some bows and arrows from some bushes where they had concealed them.

The discovery of this encampment in the densest part of the jungle is of some interest, as showing the fallacy of the opinion, so long maintained, that the interior of these islands is not inhabited, and that the aboriginal population is altogether restricted to the coast, both on account of the density of the forest, and the want of food any where but near the sea.

The density of the forest is certainly no bar to its occupation, for they have been found in all parts of the forest which have yet been



penetrated, and the fact that their chief employment is pig hunting shows that they are not entirely dependent on the coast fisheries for their subsistence.

The numerous creeks and rivers by which the interior is intersected, and which abound with fish, must yield quite as plentiful and much more certain subsistence than the sea, which for more than half the year is almost unapproachable on account of the surf and stormy weather; and even Native convicts, who have escaped from the Settlement, have contrived to subsist for a length of time on the herbs and berries which are found in the woods.

It is probable, therefore, that the aborigines roam all over the mainland in search of food and in the spirit of adventure, and that their resources are as varied and abundant as their range is extensive. (Dudhnáth had already ascertained the above facts, which to a certain extent are correct, but the difference between the *Ár-yāūto* and *Érem-tága* tribes was not then known—*M.V.P.*)

More recently some of them, apparently of another tribe, have been met with in the very heart of the interior; and an acquaintance with their language and further researches may yet discover to us numerous tribes occupying inland tracts, and living quite as much by the chase and the wild produce of the soil as by fishing.

Our explorations came to an end about a mile further, some of our party being too fatigued to continue the journey; we, therefore, agreed to return and proceed in our boats further to the north, where the aborigines had fixed their new encampment.

The Andamanese with us directed us to a sandy beach about two miles to the north, and on nearer approach we saw a long row of huts and crowds of men and women in great bustle, running from one hut to another, and carrying away bundles which probably contained property, which they were anxious to conceal from us. We had much difficulty in landing; the surf rose so high that few of us escaped a drenching, and the sailors were obliged to leave their fire-arms in the boats, which, however, were sufficiently near to render assistance if it had been needed.



The rice and biscuits which we had brought as our usual peace offering to the aborigines were completely saturated with salt water, but to their taste they were no worse for their wetting. They carried them to the camp where there was a great scramble—all of them crowding round with leaves and shells and baskets to catch the contents of the bags as they were distributed ; it was amusing to observe their cunning artifices to attract my attention as I served out the rice to them—those whom I knew thrust themselves most prominently before me, reminding me of our acquaintance by pointing to themselves, and repeating the names which we had given them : the woman Emma put her baby forward to intercede for her and wished to force him into my arms, and the sly little creature aided her diplomacy by holding out his tiny hands towards me, and looking at me most appealingly ; and when I gave him some rice he ate it raw, as did also his mother and other aborigines.

There were great lamentations in the camp over one of the boys who had returned with us ; he had been absent some weeks, and his apprehensive relations had probably been distressing their minds with misgivings of his safety, or fears that he might not be allowed to return to them again. I never knew people more eccentric in their affection. They will sometimes, when they meet again after only a night's separation, fall on each other's necks and weep most affectingly, though they have been at the same time on the same island, and separated only by the distance between my house and the Andaman Home.

We had an opportunity this time of seeing the manufacture of hemp for bowstrings. It was obtained from the under-bark of a light coloured tree, peculiar to the Andaman jungles ; they peeled off long strips, and wove it together with their hands and feet : it is strong and durable, but not so flexible as some thinner twine they use for fishing lines, and which seems to be made of a softer fibre.

(There are several mistakes here. There is no hemp in the Andaman Islands. What Mr. Corbyn saw was the manufacture of "Bétmo" rope, from the "Álaba" fibre ; this is used for turtle-harpoon lines, and for turtle nets. It is never used for bowstrings



in the making of which "Yólba" fibre is exclusively used. The Andamanese have no fishing lines—*M. V. P.*)

They showed themselves much more friendly disposed towards us now than they had been in the morning. At the other camp they held aloof from us at first, and seemed rather morose and suspicious, which I attributed to the presence of so many armed Natives whom, they seem to fear, or rather distrust, much more than Europeans, perhaps because they have learnt that we never use weapons against them except in defence or under great provocation, or in cases of extreme necessity; while experience has taught them that the former are not always so scrupulous and forbearing. I have heard that at one time some of the south tribe used frequently to visit the Settlement at Viper Island, and were on very friendly terms with the native fishermen, whom they assisted in mending their nets, and never molested or interfered with their fisheries—when all at once for some trifling offence of some petty thefts of fruit and vegetables, in which they had been indulged till they thought it allowable, the natives attacked them with sticks and stones, and because they resisted, as it was natural they should do, they were hunted down and shot, and several of them were wounded, and one or more killed.

The consequence has been that, though often seen in their canoes, they never again approached the island, and always fled from boats which followed them, and no advances could induce them to hold any communication with us till very recently. These were probably the same people whom I described as being so cruel and implacable in their hatred towards native convicts, as having resisted my friendly overtures to them notwithstanding the mediation of the Andamanese with me, who no doubt gave them a favourable representation of the treatment they have met with. I was not surprised to hear, when I returned with Captain Wetherall to the other camp where we had left the Sappers, that the Andamanese occupying that camp had all taken their departure simultaneously with us, some of them having followed us, and the rest retreated into the woods carrying away everything but the bare huts with them. (It is due to Major Haughton's administration of Andamanese affairs to point out that



Mr. Corbyn has given above a distorted account of the occurrences on Viper Island. His statements are exaggerated and incorrect, and he appears to overlook the habitual looting by his own parties of the Andamanese bows and arrows.—*M. V. P.*)

This trip ended, we soon afterwards (13th June) formed a party to visit the south coast, where we expected to meet with the tribe who were known to frequent the woods about Aberdeen, and who distinguished themselves some years ago by the part which they took in a ludicrous skirmish known in the chronicles of the Settlement as the "Battle of Aberdeen."

(I have heard accounts of the "Battle of Aberdeen" from Lieutenant Warden, who was present in command of part of the Naval Brigade; from Wologa Jóláh, one of the Andamanese chiefs in command of the aborigines; and from other Andamanese who were present; and it would appear that, far from being a "ludicrous skirmish," it was the most desperate and determined attack ever made on our Settlement. The intention of the aborigines was, they acknowledge, to exterminate us. Mr. Corbyn might have allowed his own work with the Andamanese to stand on its own merits, and there was no necessity for him to belittle the work of his predecessors, or to hold the occurrences of their time up to unjust ridicule.—*M. V. P.*)

We started in large force; the officers of the *Arracan* and *Tubal Cain* lent two boats, and most of them accompanied us; Lieutenant Gill, who had come in the *Arracan* in command of a detachment of soldiers in charge of prisoners, brought with him twelve of his men, and Colonel Tytler furnished a guard of an equal number of armed natives. The Andamanese woman Topsy acted as our guide, but was with great difficulty persuaded to go with us—she screamed and cried, and clung to her husband Jumbo, and appealed with tears to Colonel Tytler not to allow them to be separated, and when we pulled away from the island she kept her eyes fixed on the beach, and shouted to Jumbo who ran along the shore and responded to her cries till we were out of hearing. We assured her that we should return that evening, but the sight of our large party,



and of so many boats steering not towards her own camp but in an opposite direction, seemed to alarm her, and she may have supposed that we were bent on a hostile expedition against the South Tribe, and feared the consequences if she fell into their hands; as it is evident, from their frequent repudiation of any connection with them, that there is no friendly feeling between the aborigines of the north and those who occupy the mainland to the southward. As we passed by the coast near "Aberdeen" we waved bunches of plantains and called to the aborigines, some of whom were seen on the trees skipping from branch to branch with the nimbleness of monkeys; but from the height from which they were watching us, they could see the muskets in our boats, which probably frightened them, for they neither replied nor approached any nearer. The party went on to Snake Island, and landed on it for breakfast. There was a great abundance of rare shells on the beach; and Topsy seemed to be sensible of their value to us; for, as soon as we landed, she went, of her own accord, and collected a large number of them for me, and made such a good selection that I was glad to accept them; at this she was pleased, saying she had collected them for "Myjola" the name which the aborigines have given me signifying "Protector." (Māia or Mām Jólāh, a Honorific meaning "a person of importance," "one to be respected," "Sir," etc.—*M. V. P.*)

Having breakfasted and finished our inspection of the island, we next steered to a large sandy beach on the mainland directly opposite. (Now called after Mr. Corbyn, "South Corbyn's Cove."—*M. V. P.*)

As soon as we landed, the soldiers commenced to clear the jungles, and to form a strong position to protect our boats and party in the event of our being attacked. To the south of this beach is a fresh-water creek; near which, on the bank, were the remains of a fire which was still warm and not quite extinguished, and scattered about on the ground green leaves with grains of boiled rice and pineapple peels and cockle shells, and the soil was marked with footprints much larger than those of the aborigines, from which we inferred that some escaped convicts, of whom there are many dwelling in the



woods, had just been cooking their food there, and had fled into the jungles when they saw us approaching.

(It is remarkable that it never seems to have occurred to Mr. Corbyn's parties to use the Andamanese to help them track and catch these men. Much energy was spent in hunting the Andamanese and cutting roads through the jungle to their encampments, but no one troubled about the runaway convicts.—*M. V. P.*)

Lieutenant Gill directed the soldiers to remain on the beach while we explored the creek, which was so deep and wide at its mouth that we were curious to see how far it penetrated; and we also hoped to find an encampment of the tribe, though Topsy, who seemed to be acquainted with their movements, assured us that there were none of them encamped in that direction "Boodee Yorbudda" (*Bud yába-da*, means "no hut"), and urged us to go to the north where her own tribe was stationed.

About six (?) miles from the coast we found a large encampment containing about fifteen huts, very prettily situated on the right bank of the creek in the middle of a large and well shaded bamboo grove.

Topsy's information proved to be correct, for it was quite deserted and had apparently not been inhabited for many months. We searched the bushes for bows and arrows(!), but could find no relics of the tribe, except cockle shells strewed over the ground. The creek abounds with cockles and shrimps, the latter are so plentiful that the boatmen caught them in their clothes as they waded through the stream. We also collected a quantity of oysters, of which there was a bed at the mouth of the creek. Some of these oyster beds have been allowed to go on accumulating for years, the aborigines never disturbing them; for though partial to all other kind of shell-fish, they seem to have a disrelish for oysters, probably on account of the copper they contain(!?) The young and smaller sort are not at all of inferior quality to the best imported oysters; and have, perhaps, a purer taste of the genuine native oyster.

On our return we found the soldiers still stationed where we had left them. Some of them had beguiled the time with bathing, but they had met with no adventure to divert them, except an unsucces-



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ful chase after a pig, and had not seen any aborigines. To indulge their curiosity, I proposed to visit the North Tribe, and to take to them the pigs and provisions which we had brought to propitiate the other tribe who seemed so little disposed to reciprocate our friendly advances. Topsy was greatly distressed as we passed Ross Island, and stood up in the boat and called to Jumbo, but she recovered her spirits at the sight of friends; as soon as we reached the camp and went amongst them exchanging news and describing to them all that she had observed during the morning excursion. She was very much afraid that we would leave her at the camp, and frequently came to me entreating me to allow her to return with us to Ross Island. As I was walking on the shore she came and caught me by the arm, and enjoining secrecy and silence, slyly beckoned to me to follow her, and then looking cautiously round to see that no one was watching her, she led me through the jungle till we came to a tree amongst the foliage of which was carefully concealed a large bundle of arrows. She pointed to them and made signs to me to take them, and then ran away laughing and calling out as she went "Jumbol tweeken," which was a significant hint that she had shown me the arrows as an inducement to take her back to Jumbo. (The above words are not understood.—*M. V. P.*)

When I carried them to the camp she looked perfectly innocent of the transaction, and pretended to the owner that I had discovered them myself while searching about the bushes, which the man believed, though if they had known how I came by them they would have been very indignant with Topsy for betraying their treasures to me. I was glad to observe a proof of grateful feeling on the part of Crusoe towards one of our party, Mr. D'Cruze, of the *Tubal Cain*, who had shewn him much kindness on their passage from Moulmein to Port Blair, two years before. He at once recognized Mr. D'Cruze, and ran and threw his arms round his neck; and then leaving him went and brought him from the woods a finely finished bow, which a short time before he had denied giving to some stranger who had offered him cutlery of much more than its value in exchange for one. I have seen Crusoe, who is evidently a man of some consequence amongst

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the tribe, shed tears like a child when his feelings have been acted upon; and I cannot think that these poor people are so brutalized, as they have been represented to be, when I see them evince so much sympathy and tenderness, and cling so fondly and confidingly to those who have befriended them. I am certain that those of them who have been a short time under my care in Port Blair would follow me anywhere, and commit their lives to my protection with implicit confidence; and I believe in the same way, in the course of time, by kind and firm treatment all the other tribes, if they at all resemble those whom we have conciliated and attached to us, might be rendered equally tractable and submissive, and reclaimed out of their present state of barbarism into a condition in which they would be of essential service to the interests of the Settlement by facilitating discoveries and removing the obstacles which are at present opposed to the development of the great natural wealth and advantages of these islands.

Snowball was lying in one of the huts and seemed almost insensible from the effects of a severe fever from which he was suffering. He had nothing under him but a thin mat; his head rested on the lap of a woman who strongly resembled him, and appeared to be about the same age; but Crusoe who understands a few words of English told us that she was his "Mama." The poor woman was very much afflicted, and nursed and fondled him with great affection, doing all she could by the most tender care to alleviate his sufferings.

There was a large canoe in the creek concealed under some bushes; the Andamanese looked disappointed and annoyed when we discovered it, but they were very much pleased when they saw that we had no intention to deprive them of it.

(All the timidity and hostility about which Mr. Corbyn makes such a fuss was occasioned by the fear of having their property stolen by us, and it cannot be wondered at when one considers how their bows, arrows, and other articles seem to have been taken whenever our parties landed.—*M. V. P.*)

When we were about to return, several of the women and children



ran to our boats and jumped into them of their own accord. Topsy had secured a seat long before we started, and screamed and made great resistance when we pretended to oust her out of it; the rest almost capsized our boat in their ecstasies of mirth, swinging their arms, and dancing on the benches and sides of the boat as vigorously and with as much coolness and disregard of consequences as if they had been "tirpahing" on the boards of a verandah; the women were fascinated with the red coats of the soldiers, and paid them the most embarrassing attentions, seating themselves quite leisurely on their laps, putting their arms round their necks, slapping their faces, pulling their whiskers, and indulging in other sportive and absurd liberties.

When, on our arrival at Ross, they had all assembled at the Andaman Home, they began as usual to relate to each other all that they had observed during the day, describing the most minute occurrences, and mimicking and "taking off" anything that appeared to them droll and laughable in our manners and actions. Topsy's vanity was particularly gratified by the importance which she assumed in the estimation of the audience; she told them how much her services had been in demand during the day, that some one or other was constantly calling to her "here Topsy, there Topsy, Topsy, Topsy, come Topsy" (she remembered and repeated the words), and that one person would drag her by the arm in one direction, and another in another. They have all a lively sense of humour and uncommon powers of mimicry, and their words, which are delivered with a rapid and voluble utterance, sound singularly droll in connection with their comical gestures.

(Mr. Corbyn's description of the personal behaviour of the Andamanese is excellent and perfectly true to life. It is a pity that more care was not taken of the woman Topsy, who seems to have been invaluable.—*M. V. P.*)

Soon after this I paid another visit to the mainland in order to give any of the Andamanese in the Settlement, who wished to return to their homes, an opportunity to do so. Only one of them, the woman Bess, Snowball's wife, availed herself of the opportunity.



I have seen it stated that the people are detained at the Andaman Home against their will ; but a simple refutation of this mis-statement may be adduced from the fact that they are now only too anxious to come to the Settlement, and that we have much more difficulty in keeping them away from this island than in inducing them to remain here. It would obviously be a false policy, if we wish to conciliate and attract them to us, to put such a restraint upon their liberty, and make their stay compulsory ; for, however well it might succeed for the time, eventually they would dislike and shun us ; and our object, which is to familiarise them with us, and to shew them that our intentions towards them are friendly and pacific, would be neutralized and defeated. We certainly cannot have boats daily plying backwards and forwards to their camps, and indulge every sudden whim of theirs to go over to the mainland, perhaps for no more urgent purpose than to paint themselves, or to hunt after pigs, for were we to yield to such capricious fancies, there would be no limit to their exactions ; but when they are really anxious to leave they are always permitted to do so within reasonable intervals, and the best proof that they do not consider themselves involuntarily detained is, that, notwithstanding the grievances invented and alleged on their behalf, these very Andamanese, who are said to be pining in imprisonment, after they have been released, return of their own accord to their dungeons, and during the time I have resided here they have come back time after time, some of them remaining away only one or two days, and they make a more lengthened stay each time that they return. It is of course difficult to wean them all at once from habits and modes of life to which they have become attached by long custom, but in many respects they are gradually assimilating themselves to our ways and practices, and can perceive and appreciate the superior comforts and advantages of civilization, and evidently prefer them to the exposure and severe hardships which they undergo in their own jungles.

(I have, in justice to Mr. Corbyn, allowed the above passage to stand as written by him, but, whatever may have been the custom at the actual period when he wrote it, there can be no doubt, from



Colonel Tytler's letters, and from the subsequent letters of Major Ford, that the Andamanese were detained against their will in the Andaman Home, and that considerable and illegal pressure was put on them to keep them there.—*M. V. P.*)

My next visit was to a camp far to the northward, nearly out of sight of Ross Island. The surf here was very high and we were unable to land. The Andamanese came down on the beach and Bess jumped out of the boat and swam ashore diving below the breakers, and gliding through the surf with wonderful speed and agility. Five of the aborigines seeing that we were prepared to return to Port Blair swam out to us, and others were about to follow, but we sailed away, fearing to overcrowd our boat with too many of them. They seemed to have shifted their camp in search of food, for those who joined us looked wretchedly famished, and slapped their shrunken stomachs and pointed to Ross Island, as an intimation that they were in want of food and wished to return there to replenish themselves. As the wind was against us we had to tack back, at which the Andamanese were uneasy and impatient, and could not understand why we should put ourselves to the trouble of tacking so frequently; they constantly pointed to the island, and evidently thought it a matter of perfectly plain sailing to steer straight to it, and were puzzled and vexed that we so often deviated from our direct course and sailed in directions quite opposite to our destination. They showed their usual contrivance in sheltering themselves from the rain by using our mats to make coverings in the shape of their huts slantingly opposed to the wind, under which they crouched together and kept themselves quite warm and dry; while we were exposed to a pelting rain and almost cramped with the damp and chilly night air.

After this excursion, I seldom attempted to visit the aborigines at any of their encampments beyond North Point, but they have often come down to the coast opposite the Settlement and signalled by fires to us to send boats for them, and when we have done so, many of them, sometimes seventeen and eighteen at a time, and mostly women and children, have seized the opportunity of returning to their "Home" here.



A few weeks ago a European convict passing close to the mainland saw some Native convicts and Andamanese, and the latter pointed to the convicts and made signs to him to come and take them. He believed that they had brought back the convicts, perhaps as a means of attracting boats which would otherwise not approach them ; there being an order against persons landing at any place on the South Andaman where the aborigines are known to have their encampments. More convicts than ever now escape to North Point, emboldened, no doubt, by the more friendly temper of the aborigines towards us ; formerly, they were terror-stricken at the sight of the ferocious and formidable islanders, and avoided an Andamanese camp as they would have shunned the lair of a wild beast ; but having lately seen them resort here so frequently, and having heard no doubt of the warning impressed on them of the punishment which would attend their ill-treatment of any person belonging to the Settlement, they take advantage of it to presume on their forbearance and indulgence, and now go quite freely amongst them and even try to extract food from them. The Andamanese have now become so accustomed to see convicts coming to their camps, that when any of them here offend them, they threaten them with their revenge when they catch them on the mainland ; and many of them, with that superstitious feeling which is so strong in natives of India, are really afraid to injure them or to incur their resentment, for fear that, by some fortuitous mishap, they might some day be tempted to run away and fall into the hands of vindictive enemies. Colonel Tytler is anxious that I should try to find some means of inducing our Andamanese friends to recapture escaped convicts ; and it would perhaps be an act of mercy to do so, if only to hinder Natives from going amongst a people so little under the restraint of order, and provoking and instigating them to bloodshed, and all other acts of violence, by the annoyance which they cause them ; the result of even one indiscreet or hasty act being, perhaps, to fatally mar our attempts to conciliate and civilize them ; but I fear that, if we invested people of such a turbulent and reckless disposition with a police control over truant Natives, we might let loose their worst passions and encourage their



inclination, which can now hardly be subsided, to attack and ill-use peaceable and unoffending Natives indiscriminately with those who outlaw themselves and forfeit all protection by trying to evade the sentence which has bound them to the Settlement.

(Colonel Tytler was right in his wish to make the Andamanese recapture the runaway convicts, and they, in the above instance, show that they were willing to do so and to bring them in unharmed, if they made no resistance. Mr. Corbyn did not appreciate how far the friendly relations with the Andamanese had reached, nor did he understand their nature, that of the convicts, or his own duty to the Government of India in his capacity of Officer in charge of the Andamanese. It was for him to see that the convicts were unharmed, and that atrocities did not occur, and had the steps Colonel Tytler recommended been then taken, a great advance would have been made by enlisting the Andamanese on the side of the Government, and the discipline of the Settlement would have improved. Mr. Corbyn seems to have lost sight of the fact that the Natives were convicts, who, once they had escaped from imprisonment, had to be arrested at all risks, and that no consideration was due to them; moreover, the episodes of the Mutiny should have taught him that these same convicts deserved at least equally as much as the Andamanese the abusive adjectives he was so fond of applying to the latter. The fact was that he did not understand the Andamanese, and it becomes more and more apparent from this time that his treatment of them was mistaken and improper. After events have shown us that he ought to have cultivated friendly relations between the Andamanese and Europeans only, and so long as the Natives were not molested by the aborigines, the less the two had to do with each other the better.—*M. V. P.*)

If we derive advantages, as we undoubtedly do, from maintaining a good understanding with the aborigines of these islands, it is certainly an evil consequent on it, that it gives encouragement to convicts to try and effect their freedom, and to evade their work successfully for a considerable time; for they may now venture into the wide jungles and traverse the whole mainland with almost complete



impunity, which they were far from likely to do before the Andamanese were intimidated into humane and tolerant conduct towards them. (Thus showing what a mistake this intimidation was.—*M. V. P.*)

Formerly, if one of them met an Andamanese armed with bow and arrows, he was immediately attacked and stripped, and deprived of all that he carried with him; and the cowardly promptitude with which he yielded, and his supplicating and obsequious manner only excited contempt and derision, and provoked that malicious pleasure which savages find in seeing their victims writhe and look miserable under the tortures which they inflict upon them. I have heard natives describe and admit their dismay and terror in one of these encounters with the savages. Some of them were once working in the woods near Haddo, when they were suddenly confronted by two Andamanese with bows and arrows, which they brandished and pointed menacingly towards them. At the sight of the hatchets in the hands of the convicts they danced and laughed exultingly. The convicts, afraid to run, fell at full length on the ground, and clasped the feet of the savages imploring mercy, and crying to their "Ram," "Ram;" the savages imitated even their prostrate and supplicating postures and *congee*, and reflected with painful and cruel accuracy their affrighted and deprecating gestures; and when their love of mimicry was satiated, and they had danced and laughed and slapped their shaking sides till they were exhausted they seized the coveted hatchets, seem to hesitate whether they should discharge their arrows or inflict some corporal incision; but on better thought desisted, and then went away shouting "Ram," "Ram," and describing to each other the consternation of the poor convicts.

(These same "poor convicts," for whom Mr. Corbyn had so much sympathy, had only a few years before been doing far worse to Europeans of both sexes in India. One would suppose that Mr. Corbyn had got his ideas of savages from the accounts of the North American Indians, who do not in any way resemble the Andamanese. The latter have many of the mental characteristics of the Negro, and he



should have studied the accounts of the Hottentots and the Tasmanians.—*M. V. P.*)

But other convicts have not generally been so fortunate, and have seldom come away from such an encounter without some mark of the meeting, such as a slit by a knife or arrow through some part of the body; but latterly these atrocities have not been repeated, and even the Southern Tribe, perhaps from watching our intimacy with the other aborigines, and the advantages which they have derived from it, have altogether abstained from acts of hostility. Burmese and other Natives have met them occasionally near Haddo and Aberdeen and so far from showing an unfriendly disposition, the parties that they have met have given them their bows and arrows, and sat down in a familiar and social way, and eaten food with them; and I am told that none of the many runaway convicts who have lately returned have complained of being assaulted or otherwise ill-used by these islanders. The two tribes who are opposite the Settlement, though, by a common consent, they live apart and occupy different and widely distant tracts of country, occasionally meet, and some of the Southern Tribe have been seen in the woods and at the encampments at the north of the island; but beyond such occasional visits, which may be for purposes of traffic and barter, there appears to be no intimacy between them, but rather jealousy and dislike, if we may judge from the feeling which the small fraternity here manifest towards their countrymen of the south; for they express great contempt and tell me that they are "no good," when I point to that part of the island and ask them if they are not their "Budolahs" "clansmen" there. ("Bud-ola" means "a person inhabiting the same village," not "a fellow-tribesman." The description is very correct, one Sept always abuses another in the hope that the speakers will get all the presents.—*M. V. P.*)

Some of them will shake their heads dissentingly, and warn me never to go near them, declaring that they will shoot me if I do so. Once, when I was visiting the encampment beyond North Point, a party of Andamanese came from the woods, and on seeing us stood at a distance in a group, conferring together for some moments; when



on a signal from one of them, they all suddenly disappeared, and a Burman convict, who was with me, afterwards explained that they were some of the other tribe amongst whom he once resided, and that the man who gave the signal was their chief; that he (the Burman) formerly made his escape from the Settlement, and was taken and kept a prisoner by them, but contrived to effect his flight; and that the chief, when he observed him with our party, pointed to him and laughed, and exchanged some remarks with the others; whereupon, as I had seen, they all at once retreated, fearing, perhaps, that he might recognise them and have them apprehended (!?). I have said that the convicts of the new settlement seemed to be losing that wholesome dread of the wild men of the woods which had hitherto acted as a check(?) upon their truant propensities, and there was a curious instance of this:—The other day in the singular occurrence of a female married convict leaving the Settlement to try her fortune amongst the aborigines, she, and some other convicts, floated on a raft which they had constructed to North Point, and landing there, journeyed along the coast, till they came to an Andamanese encampment; they remained there a few days; but, disappointed in their expectation of being fed and entertained without cost and trouble, and finding that the Andamanese, though they suffered their presence, showed no desire for their company, they repented of their folly and returned; and the woman wisely resolved to submit ever after to her fate; and it may be hoped that her experience of the discomforts of a vagrant life will be a caution to the other malcontents of her sex who are rash enough to suppose that they can better their condition by exchanging it for Gipsy life among the savages.

The Native convicts have a foolish notion that there is an almost continuous land link between these islands and their own country; hundreds have essayed the feat of trying to discover such a passage; and no reasonings, nor even their experience of the invariable and often disastrous failure of such attempts, can disabuse their minds of the dearly cherished hallucination. They imagine, too, that there is a rajah at the "Cows" (? Cocos.—*M. V. P.*), who is friendly to their



countrymen, and who will protect and provide for them, if they can only reach the islands.

It is surprising how far some of these escaped convicts wander through the jungles. In the course of an excursion up one of the creeks above Viper, we met one of them fifteen miles or more from the Settlement, and by his own account he had been seven days wandering about the woods in all directions trying to find an outlet. He had subsisted during that time on berries, unripe fruit, and leaves, and looked miserably emaciated. The junglees, or wild men as he called them, had made him eat pork; of course much against his will as he was a strict Mussulman; and, except that they pelted him with stones when he remonstrated, they had not interfered with him, but shared their food with him and otherwise treated him kindly.

While exploring this creek, one of the largest in the Settlement, which starting about a mile south of Viper, runs for several mile into the interior, the Burmese convicts we had with us succeeded in catching two large pigs, which they liberally shared with Topsy and Jacko. The latter presided over the cooking, and appropriated a very undue portion; not content with helping himself first, and gorging himself almost to suffocation, he wrapped as much more as he wanted in leaves and hid the bundle under our hut; and again during the night ate so plentifully that he complained the next morning of being very unwell, and Topsy had to bleed him. Topsy and Jacko were very much alarmed when they found it was our intention to proceed far into the jungle to the south, and did their utmost to dissuade us. They made me understand that we should encounter an unfriendly tribe of aborigines of whom they themselves seemed to be in great dread. (The first mention of the Jārawas.—*M. V. P.*)

Jacko pointed to my heart and represented the act of a savage aiming at me with his bow and arrow, of the arrow piercing my heart and my falling wounded, closing my eyes and expiring. Topsy also pathetically enacted the death scene, and both waved their hands deprecatingly in the direction disapproved of, and entreated me not to proceed further but to return to the "Barra Chab" (Bara Sahib, *i.e.*, "the Superintendent"). ("Katah Deeayrdah, Burra Chab tweecken")



(*Káto díá-da*, Bara Sahib (?) "tweeken" is not known, the rest means "There is my ("place," understood) with the Superintendent."—*M. V. P.*)

That there were none of their tribe in the other direction, but that it was "Meecheymyayrdah, Meecheymyayrdh," (*Míchima-da*, *Míchima-da*.—What? What?—*M. V. P.*), a word which they frequently repeated with emphasis and in a tone of great disgust. We saw no one and returned to the Settlement two days after we had left it. Topsy was almost beside herself with joy at meeting her husband; he had been very uneasy and often enquired for her and Jacko during their absence, and showed by his manner that he feared some harm had befallen them.

On Saturday, the 25th July, 1863, a party of men of the Naval Brigade left this island in the Superintendent's cutter to visit some birds' nest caverns on the south coast, with permission to be absent two days. We heard nothing more of them till very early on the morning of the 27th an Andamanese canoe with three naked Europeans was seen some distance out to sea making towards the island. There was at once, of course, all manner of surmises which were not set at rest by the reports which were circulated soon after their arrival; for, the first supposed-to-be-authentic intelligence which Colonel Tytler received was, that his cutter with the Naval Brigade men had been wrecked, that the sailors had been attacked by the aborigines, and some of them massacred, while others including the coxswain, Wilkinson (so minute was the account), were lying wounded and bleeding on the beach. The three men who were seen in the canoe had contrived to escape and brought the intelligence. Colonel Tytler, as soon as he espied the canoe at a distance, conjectured what had happened, and immediately ordered a party of armed police in charge of a European; he also ordered Lieutenant Philbrick, Commanding the *Lady Canning*, which was most fortunately here at the time, to make immediate preparations to start for MacPherson's Straits with an armed party of Naval Brigade men. There was great excitement through the Settlement, every one vowing vengeance on "those ungrateful, treacherous, blood-