



thirsty savages". I was cautioned to keep those of them who were here out of sight, as it was impossible to say what the sailors might do to them in their rage and excitement; and, of course, all efforts for their good were pronounced a folly and delusion, and they were henceforth to be regarded as no better than wild beasts, to be treated like brutes, and hunted down and exterminated. But the real facts, rightly viewed, represented the contrast between them and the more civilised and superior race in very different colours; they were as follows:—

The sailors who had set on this "birds' nesting" expedition entered MacPherson's Straits, and landed safely on a sandy beach, about a mile beyond the birds' nest caverns, where they found some Andamanese canoes, and on the skirt of the jungle a deserted camp in which the aborigines, who seem to have been scared away by their approach, had left the best part of their possessions, implements, weapons, painted skulls, shell cups, and numerous other curiosities, all scattered about the ground, as if in their hurry and confusion they had not had time to carry them away or conceal them. The sailors plundered all they found—carried their booty to the cutter, fastened the best canoe to the stern, and then set off to return to Ross Island. They were sailing through a heavy sea, and unfortunately too close to shore; for as they were turning the point the boat struck with violence against a sunken rock and immediately capsized; the crew were now in imminent danger, their boat was carried forward with the impetuous force of the waves and dashed to pieces against the rocks; they struggled desperately amongst the rocks and surf, tossed first forward, then back again into the trough of the sea, but fortunately all could swim but one, who sunk immediately; but two of his companions, regardless of their own lives, swam to his assistance and succeeded in dragging him to a rock where he lay insensible; he was not seen again, and they supposed that the receding waves had swept him back into the sea, for his body was not afterwards found, though a careful search was made near the scene of the disaster; it was a miracle of mercy that any of them escaped, but they all, with this one exception, succeeded at last in scrambling



up the cliffs out of reach of the waves where they lay for some time in utter exhaustion—torn, bruised, and bleeding, and one of them apparently lifeless; the latter, Wilkinson, the Chief Petty Officer, was left all night in this position; his companions believing that he was dead, and surprised, they said, when they returned next morning, “to find him alive again,” limping about the beach. The others climbed to a plateau on the cliff, which was open to the sea on one side and separated by a ridge of rocks from the jungle on the other, and there they determined that they would remain for the night, as it afforded not only a place of concealment and natural protection against attack by the aborigines, but also the advantage of being able to watch and signal boats and ships passing. They then deliberated on the measures to be taken to convey intelligence of the accident to the Settlement authorities and procure assistance. It was hopeless to think of travelling so many miles along the coast over precipitous rocks and through dense thickets of mangroves; they were shoeless and exhausted, and had not a morsel of food to support them. What then were they to do?—they might remain where they were until their protracted absence created alarm, and assistance was sent to them, but that could not be till the day following at the earliest; and in the meantime they might perish from hunger or faintness, or suffer a worse fate at the hands of the savages. (Whom they had robbed of their property.—*M. V. P.*)

In this extremity they resolved upon a daring and desperate venture; they had left some canoes on the beach opposite the aborigines' encampment, and three of them volunteered to go down and endeavour to seize one, and, if possible, make their way on it to Ross. We have seen how well this bold enterprise succeeded. They pushed out in the canoe, turned the point safely, though not without some hairbreadth escapes, and guiding themselves as well as they could with a paddle, drifted with wind and tide along shore, toward the Settlement. They had not gone before they saw, or fancied they saw, some of the aborigines running along the beach with torches, and, as they thought, pursuing them; large fires on the shore showed that they were encamped there, and to avoid the risk of falling



into their hands, they steered further out to sea, but the tide carried them so far that they at length lost sight of the land, and not knowing in the darkness what course to follow, were altogether at the mercy of the tide and wind, which fortunately blew steadily in this direction, and so were driven to eastward of this island, where they were espied, about four miles off, next morning. When we saw the canoe, two of the men appeared motionless, the other was feebly guiding it with a paddle. A crowd was waiting on the shore to assist them when they landed, and they needed the assistance,—for what with the fatigues they had undergone, and exposure without clothing to rain during the night, and want of food, and extreme anxiety, the poor men had sunk into a semi-stupor, and made no effort at least to save themselves; their canoe struck sideways against a rock at some distance from shore and fell to pieces; they tumbled over and floundered in the water, but were unable to swim, and must have been drowned if some Natives had not immediately hastened to their aid and dragged them on land. The *Lady Canning* then steamed down to the Straits in about three hours. We had not an opportunity of visiting the renowned caves or making any other observations for we were wholly engaged, when we landed, with assisting the sailors who were miserably enfeebled by their long fast and all the hardships they had encountered. All were recovered with the exception of the poor man who had perished on the day of the wreck; the fragments of the cutter, and the sails torn into shreds, were lying on the rocks; but we could not approach the place on account of the heavy surf. This unhappy accident, resulting in the loss of life of one of our sailors, has had one good effect,—that it has determined the Superintendent to prohibit for the future such adventurous excursions which have, before now, brought the Brigadesmen into collision with the aborigines, and have been followed by results which must have increased the antagonism and hatred of the latter towards us.

(It is difficult to understand how, after the scandal and *exposé* in connection with the murder of Pratt, Colonel Tytler could have permitted such an expedition to be undertaken. The sailors, as usual, behaved as badly as possible, and appear to have disgusted even



Mr. Corbyn. They seem to have been a poor lot of men, with little endurance, pluck, or resource, as, when carefully considered, it will be seen that the sufferings they underwent were small in comparison with those which thousands of Europeans in the cases of shipwrecks, or the African expeditions, have endured for many days without a murmur. Mr. Corbyn notices as one of their "sufferings" that they were without clothing in the rain during the whole night. This, with the thermometer at 76° is no great hardship, and they were only without food for a little over a day.—*M. P. P.*)

Until we fully understand their language, and by that means can impartially investigate their complaints, there will, in the progress of their intercourse with us, be frequent cases in which the aborigines may be unfairly represented, and offences imputed to them of which, if the truth could be divulged, they would be found not to have been guilty; and, such being the case, next to the duty of most zealously watching over them to protect their lives and liberty, nothing can be of greater present importance with regard to them than that Government should encourage, by every means, the study of their language, and the instruction in our language of their children, who, when they had acquired a sufficient knowledge of English or Hindustani, would be the best medium of communication with them.

(Having grasped the above facts so clearly, it was a pity that Mr. Corbyn did not apply them in his subsequent dealings with the Andamanese.—*M. P. P.*)

At first it seemed as if their language was to be a perpetual puzzle to philologists, and that at least much time would elapse before we should make the poor Andamanese understand that we were seeking inter-communication of ideas and information with them. For a long time every question that we put to them was repeated with the rapidity of an echo, and with most provoking accuracy, till patience was exhausted, and it seemed hopeless to interrogate them; but at last an accidental circumstance discovered to me the key by which to elicit intelligible utterances; since that time my want has been understood, and they have encouraged my efforts to acquire their language. I observed some of the children curiously examin-



ing various articles in my house which caught their attention, and as they examined each, they turned towards me and called out, with an expression on their faces of interest and curiosity, "Kahmeechi Mud-dah?" "Kahmeechi Muddah?" which it was quite obvious to me meant, "What do you call this?" "What is the name of this?" and when I, in turn, pointed to something which they knew, and asked them their name for it, they instantly replied giving me the word in their own language by which they designated it.

(*Ká míchima-da* "means "What is this." I have always found the children much more intelligent in such matters than the grown-up Andamanese.—*M. V. P.*)

I have sometimes been asked if the Andamanese observe any form of religion, or if they have ever intimated anything which would argue their belief in a God, or expectation of a future state of existence after death. That they have such expectations I have reason to believe from circumstances which seemed to me little short of their assertion of that fact. An Andamanese woman had lost an infant child which she had formerly brought with her to this island. On her appearing here one day without it, I enquired after her baby, and asked why she had not, as usual, brought it, when she replied that it was dead, and that she had buried it the previous day; and on further interrogation she pointed her finger towards the skies, and said that baby "was there" ("*Bar lin din ijo lockon kayler*"), and then raised herself and extended her arm as if straining upwards, and made gestures and exclamations which implied that baby had gone very, very far above into their celestial paradise. Had it been a singular incident, I should not have attached so much meaning to it, nor perhaps have founded any opinions of their belief upon it, but many other of the Andamanese, whom I questioned separately about the deceased infant, repeated the poor woman's gestures and expressions.

(The sentence quoted by Mr. Corbyn is not intelligible. The woman may have said, "*Bá-lá, iji—lupo kinyi-ré,*" "The child died very suddenly," or *Bá-len, dó ijilá on-ké* "The child ("being buried," understood) I come back alone.")



Their idea of a paradise, if I have rightly interpreted it, is gross in the extreme. They believe that it abounds with pigs, and that their departed kinsmen are perpetually revelling in the delights of pig-hunting ("rogo deyley"), and repasts on pigs ("rogo makney") (*Rógo délé-ké* means "to hunt pigs," and *Rógo mék-ké* to "eat pigs").

Perhaps their expectation of this their supreme enjoyment makes them face danger and brave death with such reckless intrepidity. (I have never found them do this. On the contrary, they are rather cowards.—*M. V. P.*) They appear to perform religious rites at burial. (They do not.—*M. V. P.*) Their dead are interred, not burnt; a grave is dug about three feet deep in which the body is deposited; after filling the grave with sand and green leaves, they light a large fire upon it, and cover the ashes with soil; they then abandon their encampment which is invariably also their burial ground and will not occupy it again till after the lapse of several months when the skeleton is disinterred, and the skull and other bones are appropriated by the nearest relative.

I found the complete bones of human bodies carefully wrapped in leaves and concealed in trees, and when the Andamanese have found them in my possession, they have been most eager to recover them, claiming them as valued relics of their friends: skulls, as is generally known, are worn as ornaments suspended from the neck, and made to serve a useful purpose, holding the sundry small articles which they usually carry about with them. When any of the aborigines have died at the Andaman Home, their friends have seemed to have no further care for them, and have left their burial to convict servants.

(In the above, two methods of disposing of the body of the deceased are described; burial, and the placing of the body on a platform, of which the latter is the more honorable. The skull is never used as a box in which small articles are carried. The reason why the bodies of those who died in the Andaman Home were neglected, was because the aborigines there considered themselves to be in confinement, and not permitted to observe their usual customs, perhaps also



from shyness. The subject of the beliefs of the Andamanese regarding a future state is too extensive to be recorded here in a note.—
M. F. P.)

I am glad to state that some of the South Tribe have lately been induced to visit this island through the influence of "Crusoe," who warmly exerted himself in this instance to second my endeavours. They had encamped not far from Aberdeen; and having noticed their fires one evening, I proposed to some of the North Tribe in the Andaman Home here to visit them the following morning, but they demurred and wished to dissuade me, representing the South Tribe as extremely ill-disposed to us, and warning me that they would assuredly shoot their arrows at me if I landed. When next morning I approached their camp with Crusoe, a crowd of them at first came down to the beach, and Crusoe signalled to them, and shouted most energetically, offering them bags of rice and other grain which we had taken for them in the boat. At first they remained on the beach silently watching us, but when they observed our intention to land near their encampment, they ran back to it, extinguished their fires, gathered up their bundles, and dispersed in different directions through the jungle. It seemed useless to follow them, and I turned the boat intending to return back, but Crusoe begged me to persevere, promising that if we would row along the coast he would prevail upon them to come to us. Some of them seeing our boat turned again, showed themselves on the shore, and then a conversation followed between them and Crusoe, which ended in their agreeing to remain if we landed, which we did. They wished me to proceed with them to a larger encampment of their tribe some distance southward. I left the bags of provisions on the shore, and having persuaded them to come into the boat, set sail; but instead of steering in the direction which they wished, when we were well out to sea, I turned the boat and assuring them that they should be kindly treated, and that they had no cause for the least apprehension, I brought them to this island. After setting before them such a sumptuous feast of roast pigs and other approved dainties, as they had perhaps never before seen, I loaded them with presents and returned next day with



them to their camp, taking with me this time more bags of grain to distribute amongst their friends.

They were so delighted with this treatment, and their confidence so completely gained, that they persuaded fifteen more of their friends to pay a visit to this island. Since that time there have been no less than 47 aborigines in the Andaman Home, of whom twenty are children of various ages.

Some of these have quickly acquired the English alphabet, and words of short syllables, and their imitative powers are so remarkable that they soon catch, and commit to memory, phrases which they hear spoken.

The men are often at first extremely unruly, and I am continually called upon to interfere in cases in which they would not hesitate to take the lives of convicts, or the Native Guard over them, if they persisted in opposing them. Their manner of beguiling their leisure is to sharpen hoop iron into long blades, of which I collect a number every day to prevent their using them against their Parawallahs; this unpleasant duty is not wholly without risk, for they are extremely loath to part with any weapon and are always inclined to resent the seizure of it, even though not their own, as a grievous affront and wrong.

The children, when they can obtain the materials, will employ their time in making bows and arrows, in the manufacture of which they are very skilful, and in the use of them not less so. Two of the boys, each about ten years of age, sometimes go along the rocks round the island shooting fish with bows and arrows. I have seen them leap from rock to rock watching for the fish as they dart out from under them, when with astonishing quickness, and an aim which seldom misses, they discharge their arrows—which the next moment are seen quivering in the water, and one of them plunges in and drags out a fish sometimes fifteen or twenty inches in length fixed to his arrow point. I have seen them obtain in this way a large basket of fish at times, when, on account of stormy weather, none have been caught by the convict fishermen.

They seem to be almost as much in their element in the water as



on land, and the feats in swimming which they sometimes perform are so extraordinary that they will hardly be credited. One man who was fettered and under guard at the Naval Brigade barracks escaped one night, and swam in his heavy iron fetters to the opposite mainland.

Two of the Andamanese under my care left the Home one dark night and swam all the distance from this island to North Point; and a few days afterwards, when I sent a message to them inviting them to return, they swam back again the same distance in the open day each resting on a bamboo branch, (the distance is two miles—*M. V. P.*), it would seem from these circumstances and the fearlessness which they indicate, that sharks, which abound in these waters, do not attack them, for they would hardly risk their lives in so reckless a manner if experience had warned them of such a danger. (The Andamanese are occasionally bitten by sharks and eaten by crocodiles, but very seldom.—*M. V. P.*)

I am bound to correct an erroneous impression of their habits which I have inadvertently conveyed through imperfect observation. It is with regard to the taste for raw flesh which is sometimes attributed to them. Here they both boil and roast their food, one process following the other, and will even reject it if it is not sufficiently cooked for them.

I have found in the office records of this Settlement the following curious document, which I transcribe into this report with a view to add to it information, which I have obtained in confirmation of the interesting fact, so much doubted and derided, which it seems to establish, that these poor people, though they have been so long neglected, possess mental capabilities not at all inferior to others, that, in fact, the Almighty has endowed them with faculties which are common to all the human race, and which have so long lain dormant in them only because the attempt has not been made to bring them into exercise.

“In 1835 or 1837, whilst between Narcondam and Barren Islands, after a blow from the westward, picked up an Andaman canoe con-



taining a man, woman, and two children (a boy and a girl), in a state of starvation, the boy died immediately after being picked up. They were taken to Penang and made over to the authorities; after having landed, the man was taken very ill. Dr. Boswell, the Civil Surgeon, was bleeding him when his wife seized a pot containing water, and flung it at his head; the doctor just had time to stoop to escape the blow; the man died; the girl was put into the Free School and turned out one of the cleverest girls amongst them. After completing her studies, she went under Mrs. Forbes Brown as a sort of a companion; the mother was placed in a Penitentiary at Pulo Tecoos, she had the liberty of going to see her daughter daily, a distance of three miles. Mrs. Smith, the schoolmistress, was in the habit of giving her a piece of sugarcane which she was very fond of. Ladies also gave her clothes which she was in the habit of tearing up and getting patches put to make it look gaudy. When I was in Penang last, herself and her daughter were alive."

H. KINSEY,

Commanding "Lonach."

PORT BLAIR;

The 20th November 1861.

I have learnt on good authority that there is another young Andamanese woman in Penang, who has been from infancy with the family of Mr. Mitchell, a clerk in the Supreme Court; that she has been liberally educated, receiving in all respects the same advantages as his own daughters; that she is an accomplished pianist, studious, and well informed; is gifted with a most amiable and excellent disposition, and that her character and conduct are most praiseworthy and exemplary: that she is a regular and frequent attendant at the Church services, was lately confirmed by the Bishop of Calcutta; and, since her confirmation, has also been a regular communicant.

I was also informed that she is engaged to be married to a European schoolmaster in Penang. Mr. Mitchell's brother is a clerk in the Superintendent's office here, and he confirms these statements.



I am further informed that another Andamanese, a native of these islands, is serving as a nurse in a family at Singapore; she also having been reared and educated there, but nothing more is stated with regard to her. I have also often heard, though I am not aware on what original authority the statement rests, that an Andamanese has for many years been carrying on trade as a Tobacconist in London; and that, as his story is not known there, he passes for a stunted African.

H. CORBYN.

PORT BLAIR;

The 5th October 1863.

(Of the above stories, the three about the Andamanese women are probably one and the same, judging from Major Haughton's account of the information he obtained when visiting Penang. It has often occurred to me that some of the so-called Negro pages, who seem to have been so common in the Courts, and houses of the aristocracy, in Europe in the 18th century, may have been Andamanese, particularly as some of them, unlike the true Negroes, never seem to have grown any bigger. They might easily have been taken by Malay kidnappers from the Andamans to Atcheen, and from that centre passed on in the pilgrim ships, as mentioned by Mr. Hamilton, to the Arabian, Egyptian, and Levantine slave markets—*M. V. P.*)

In October 1863, the Hon'ble Major-General Sir R. Napier, K.O.B., President in Council, visited Port Blair. He notes regarding the aborigines, that Mr. Corbyn's visit to Calcutta with them has had a very good effect, and that Mr. Corbyn deserves great praise for his humane and persevering efforts to win these poor people to civilisation, in which he has gained their confidence and affection.

He strongly recommended that an allowance of not more than Rs. 200 per month should be granted for the expenses of the Andaman Home, with an expression of the full approbation of Government of Mr. Corbyn's services.



CHAPTER XII.

Narrative No. 3, by Mr. Corbyn—Visit to Calcutta of the Andamanese—Visits to Rangoon, and Moulmein, of the Andamanese—Trouble with the South Tribe—Homes on Ross Island—Restrictions—Escape of Andamanese from the Homes—Death of Topsy—Attempt to utilise the Andamanese in the capture of runaway convicts—Letter from Mr. Corbyn—Letter from Major Ford—Trouble in the Homes—Grant of Rs200 per mensem to the Andaman Homes—Port Blair placed under the orders of the Government of Burmah—Enquiry by the Government about the Andamanese—More trouble in the Homes—Murder of a convict by the Andamanese at the North Outpost—Homes closed—Major Ford's opinion of Mr. Corbyn's treatment of the Andamanese—Mr. Corbyn resigns the charge of the Andamanese—Arrangement of the Homes—Review of Mr. Corbyn's management of the Andamanese.

NARRATIVE NO. 3

Of the Reverend Henry Corbyn, relative to the Aborigines of the Andaman Islands.

The present report is submitted on account of His Excellency the Governor General in Council having called for a report on the present condition and working of the Andaman Home.

On the 14th October, 1863, I left Port Blair on medical certificate accompanied by eight Andamanese, the prisoner Jumbo and his wife Topsy, Jacko, three boys and two girls. The weather was very propitious and they thoroughly enjoyed the voyage. Topsy and a little girl, who were ill when we started, quite recovered before the end of it. Far from showing any fear or misgivings as we proceeded, they looked curiously and wistfully forward, longing to reach the place which I had described to them as possessing all the attractions which imagination could depict to them, and daily questioned me about it. All they stipulated for was that we should all return together, which I promised before we started. On our arrival in Calcutta, the Commissioner of Police very kindly placed at my disposal, for the use of the Andamanese, a small house in the Town Hall compound conveniently situated near Spence's Hotel where I had apartments. The news of our arrival soon spread amongst the native population, who



were all most anxious to catch a glimpse of the renowned anthropophagi. On the second morning after our arrival the extensive Town Hall enclosure was filled with a dense mass of people, Natives, Eurasians, and Europeans, all clamouring for admission; and on entering the rooms where they lodged I found them beset by a crowd of those eager sight-seers; the Native part of the assembly cautiously keeping at a safe distance with a view to a speedy retreat if they manifested any signs of giving them an uncouth reception.

Each succeeding day the crowds increased; till, at last, the roads leading to the Town Hall became impassable on account of the vast concourse of spectators who would remain, with most exemplary patience, throughout the day waiting for an opportunity to gratify their insatiable curiosity. The most preposterous rumours circulated amongst the natives, that the "monkey-men" as they designated them, had long tails; that a pig was given to them, and they would kill it and eat it raw on the Maidan; that the woman was ill and had declared that nothing would save her life but eating the flesh of a white man. The poor woman was, indeed, very unwell, and the disturbance outside and continual intrusion of people into the house were extremely irritating to her. At last, as the crowd could not be ejected, either by persuasion or by the aid of the police, I endeavoured to effect a compromise by promising to let them see the Andamanese on the Town Hall steps, if they would all leave the compound and open a passage for carriages to pass through it.

As the mob now daily increased, and their curiosity after continually seeing the Andamanese was not in the least degree abated, it became necessary to seek for other quarters in some less populous locality; but here again another difficulty arose which, if I had given sufficient thought to it before I left Port Blair, might have deterred me from undertaking the laborious enterprise of conducting reputed savages to the capital of India. No owner of a house would on any terms, accept the Andamanese as tenants. And as they had notice to quit the building in the Town Hall compound, they would soon have been without a dwelling had I not obtained permission to encamp with them on the Ballygunge Parade Ground, which, being



in the suburbs at some distance from the town, was a situation where the Andamanese could obtain healthy exercise and combine with it all the advantages of sight-seeing, driving into Calcutta without being so much noticed or pursued by the mob who could no longer be on the watch for them.

It was remarked with surprise and disappointment, that they never evinced astonishment or admiration at anything which they beheld, however wonderful from its novelty we might suppose it would appear to them. When they passed through rooms, as in the Calcutta Mint, where the most elaborate appliances of machinery were displayed before them in active operation, while they watched and examined the various motions, not a sign either by word or gesture escaped them that such wonderful contrivances surpassed their comprehension, or that their magnitude and power startled and bewildered them.

But, in fact, their undemonstrative manner was not a sign of unconcern or want of appreciation, but rather an indication that a profound interest was awakened, and that they were too absorbed in thought to give immediate utterances to the sensations which objects so far above their comprehension excited. They would, afterwards amongst themselves interchange their ideas, and talk for hours together of what they had witnessed; and sometimes things which appeared at the time almost to escape notice, or to produce but slight impression, would form the subject of most animated discussion and enquiry.

Their favourite resort was the Dhurumtollah market, through which I often led them, sometimes not without some difficulty and risk, on account of the pressure of the crowd attracted by the famous "monkey-men." The women and little children were easily manageable, but the men and boys caused me considerable anxiety and trouble, both on account of their propensity to plunder, which notwithstanding the liberality with which all their wishes were gratified, they would have indulged with the most fearless effrontery, and in the most lawless and violent manner, had I not restrained them, and also because of the thoughtless liberties taken with them which they



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were very quick to resent, especially if they considered that an indignity was intended. On one occasion, I was driving through the China Bazaar with Jumbo who was seated opposite to me with his legs hanging over one side of the carriage, watching the people as they followed us, when suddenly a Native in the crowd, without any reason or provocation, spat upon his trousers. In an instant his eyes flashed, and his features assumed a most dreadful expression of ferocity, and before I could interfere, with one bound, and his arms flung forward, he sprang upon the man who had offered him the insult. Fortunately, the crowd stopped the way and the man escaped through an alley; but Jumbo, wishing to wreak his revenge on somebody, struck vigorously with his clenched fists right and left, till I seized his arm and dragged him back into the carriage. At another time the same affront was offered to Jacko in the Circular Road; and, as the offender in this instance also escaped, he too vented his wrath upon the mob, lashing them with my buggy whip, till he had completely dispersed them. Unfortunately (?) the Andamanese came away from Calcutta with a more contemptible opinion of the Natives than they had ever before entertained of them, which they have shown in their tone and bearing towards them since they returned to the Settlement. Even a child, running into a crowd of Bengalees and using menacing gestures, would immediately scatter it; and it was natural that the Andamanese, seeing such displays of timidity, should regard the whole race as immeasurably inferior to them in those qualities which they most appreciate and admire.

I was anxious that they should see some military manœuvres, and a parade of troops, for which General Showers kindly appointed a day shortly before our departure; but the intelligence of the melancholy death of Lord Elgin made it necessary to postpone it, and they, therefore, lost the opportunity of witnessing the imposing spectacle.

They frequently visited the fort and also the arsenal and armoury; mutual recognitions passed between them and some men of Her Majesty's 13th L. I., who had been to Port Blair on detachment duty and visited them in their encampment. They never forget a face which they have once seen. When Lieutenant Gill of Her

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Majesty's 13th L. I., entered the room where they lodged, they immediately pointed him out to me as one of the party who had visited their "Boudlah," and appeared delighted to see him again on account of that circumstance.

Amongst other places they were taken to the Asiatic Society's Museum, in which they appeared to recognise different skeletons of animals, and gave names to the various species according to the formation of the under jaw. They also attended a meeting of the Asiatic Society and at the Bethune Institution. At the former the chief subject of discussion which elicited opposite opinions was the possibility of an attempt to civilize them, and one of the speakers, who doubted its success, instanced the case of barbarous aborigines of other countries who had had long communication and intercourse with Europeans, who easily imitated and acquired the bad habits of the civilized race without adopting any of those which tended to improve them. But one cause of the demoralization and physical deterioration of other barbarous races which he mentioned, happily does not exist amongst the Andamanese, namely, the passion for ardent spirits; indeed, it is difficult to persuade them, even in sickness, to imbibe any kind of stimulant. It is true that they may hereafter become accustomed to the use of liquors when associating more with the people of this Settlement, but it is to be earnestly hoped that our utmost influence will be exercised to prevent such a calamitous consequence of our intercourse with them.

Besides places of interest in Calcutta which they visited, they were taken to see the great piggeries in Entally which, as I had expected, threw them into raptures; they also went by railway to Burdwan, and, by the kindness of the Rajah, were allowed to see his house and grounds, and famous menagerie, all of which they have never ceased to speak of and call to my recollection.

On the 26th November we left Calcutta, and reached Port Blair on the 2nd December. A number of Andamanese were waiting on Ross Island anxiously looking forward to the arrival of the *Tubal Cain* and party with me, and great were the demonstrations of delight when they saw them all safely return again. The Home



became a scene of wildest revelry, singing and dancing continuing night and day for upwards of a fortnight, during which all the Calcutta adventures were glowingly related, and the effect produced was that, day after day, they entreated me to take them all to Calcutta and had the option been offered to them, the whole tribe would have been willing to accompany me.

A most unfortunate occurrence had happened during our absence. The South Tribe had been giving trouble and robbing the Settlement plantations near Haddo, and the Convict Police had exemplified their zeal by shooting one man and wounding a woman. Colonel Tytler enquired into the case, obtaining, however, only the convict's version of the story, and cautioned them to be more forbearing in future, and never to use their fire-arms, except in self-defence and under extreme necessity. The woman was brought to Ross Island and remained for some months under my care, but died at length from the effect of her wounds, which had been too long neglected.

On the 9th December, I proceeded with Colonel Tytler to Rangoon and Moulmein, six Andamanese accompanying us, who were required to act as guides in our contemplated visit to some islands to the northward.

Nothing worthy of note occurred in these visits, except that, on the voyage, the Andamanese rendered most useful and indeed indispensable service in supplying the want of a sufficient crew on board the Settlement Steamer *Diana*. Through some unaccountable neglect or oversight, the *Diana* had left Rangoon on her voyage to Moulmein and Port Blair without a sufficient number of men to work her, and it was found impossible to heave up the anchor, and to perform many other necessary duties of the ship without the assistance of the Andamanese, which, I am bound to say, was cheerfully rendered, though they were severely over-worked and deprived of their rest at night through the exertions imposed upon them.

In the beginning of this year (1864), the South Tribe renewed their depredations, but with much more caution, avoiding the armed police and escaping into the jungles whenever they appeared; they seemed to obtain intelligence by some means, while the police were



still at a distance, that they were approaching. The latter could not succeed in finding them, and never knew when or where to expect them, for they continually changed their positions to elude the police, and appeared successively in quite different directions where they knew the Native convicts would be least prepared to receive them. In this manner, not only was great damage done to the Settlement plantations, but serious loss was sustained by the convict self-supporters whose gardens were completely cleared of all their produce. Colonel Tytler felt the necessity of taking effective measures to oppose these lawless proceedings, but there appeared no means of putting a stop to them without actual collision with the tribe, resulting, probably, in bloodshed. He was most anxious to avoid this ; and I begged him to enjoin the police not to shoot any of them, but to lie in ambush and endeavour, if possible, to capture them.

A few days following two of the ring-leaders, known now as Moriarty and Sandys Sahib, were seized, and Colonel Tytler put them in irons and placed them under my care. As I had expected, some of their friends soon came to visit them, and I sent a message by them to their tribe that the prisoners were to be kept in close custody as a security for their future good behaviour, and that they should be severely punished if any of the Native convicts at the outposts were again molested.

These measures and warnings were more effectual in restraining their aggressive movements than the slaughter of half the tribe would have been ; for, finding themselves foiled and fearing that we should retaliate upon the prisoners if they gave us further provocation, they left the neighbourhood.

On my second expedition to Port Mouat, when returning late one evening through MacPherson's Straits, we saw the fires of the aborigines, and as soon as the steamer was anchored, I started in a small boat to visit their encampment. We arrived opposite to it about 8 P.M. and hailed them, but instead of replying they extinguished their fires and retreated into the woods. Topsy and an Andamanese child, who were with me, now tried their persuasions. They assured the other aborigines that they had nothing to apprehend



from us, that we were unarmed, that it was only myself, Myjolah, who had come to visit them, that the only other persons in the boat were the Native crew, and, moreover, that we had coconuts and rice in abundance, and other presents for them.

These assurances satisfied them, and they commenced to wade out towards us, calling out to us to bring the boat nearer; I replied that this was impossible, as the shore was rocky and my boat had already struck against a rock, and that I was afraid on that account to approach any nearer, and asked them why they had extinguished their fires. They said that they would at once relight them and come out to us in a canoe, and in a quarter of an hour they came,—a woman steering with a paddle, and four men pulling: I filled their canoe with coconuts, bags of grain, beads, knives, looking-glasses, and other presents with which two of them returned: the woman and two men accompanying us to the steamer. Next morning I again visited the camp without guard or attendants, and the aborigines, delighted with the presents which I had left with them the night before, gave me a most welcome reception, promising that if any Europeans (Ahboojing-eejidur) ever fell into their hands, they would bring them to the Settlement.

(The last remark shows how much of Mr. Corbyn's notes regarding the sayings and doings of the aborigines was evolved from his own imagination. "*Bojig-ngiji-da*" means "aborigines," and the people were evidently talking about themselves, he not understanding a word of the conversation.—*M. V. P.*)

During the month of February, 1864, the number of aborigines of both tribes on the Settlement was upwards of forty; who were daily employed in work with Native convicts, (which should never have been permitted.—*M. V. P.*), clearing sites, making thatching and bamboo frame-work, and helping in other ways in the construction of their own houses, piggeries, and cattle sheds; but soon severe illness began to prevail amongst them, and various causes combined to render them dissatisfied with their condition and treatment here. The monthly allowance for their support did not suffice for their wants, and Colonel Tytler admitted that in return for their labour



which was quite equal to that of Native convicts, they were even entitled to a larger allowance. They, moreover, complained of other discomforts. The Andaman Home was no longer tenable, and their only dwelling was a small cow-shed, which they shared with cattle, sleeping on a raised bamboo machan above them.

(It is not understood, when he saw how objectionable it was, why Mr. Corbyn allowed such a state of things. The Andamanese should have been permitted to make one of their own villages, in which, in a sheltered spot, they would have been perfectly happy.—*M.V.P.*)

They were also impatient of the presence of a Convict Guard over them, who watched and restricted their movements, not allowing them the liberty of walking about the island except at certain times, and attended by them to restrain them from doing any mischief. Four of them died here; but still nothing could be done to improve their quarters, (!) or better their condition. (All this is not understood. Certain subsequent correspondence shows that Mr. Corbyn and the new Superintendent Major Ford were not on good terms, but there is nothing to show that Major Ford was not anxious to treat the aborigines well; indeed, a letter of his quoted below shows that he did not approve of the repression exercised over the Andamanese by Mr. Corbyn.—*M.V.P.*)

The South Tribe men were continually instigating the others to escape; (Escape from what? Mr. Corbyn has hitherto said that they were under no restrictions.—*M.V.P.*), and at length, notwithstanding the utmost vigilance of the guard, the prisoners, as well as nearly all the others, succeeded in doing so; one of the former, Sandys Sahib, swimming in his irons to the mainland, and only Jumbo and Topsy were left, and finally they also escaped (!), and the latter most unfortunately was drowned in attempting to swim to the mainland. Such a *finale* of all our hopes and efforts was indeed melancholy and disheartening, and every one predicted that we should see nothing more of the Andamanese, and that it was hopeless to attempt to do anything more with them. But I renewed the attempt, supported and encouraged by Major Ford in doing so. It occurred to me that as soon as the North Tribe knew



that Jumbo had escaped (!) they would decamp and go to some other part of the islands, and it was therefore desirable to see them, and endeavour to persuade some of the more influential of them to return to the Settlement before they had ascertained this circumstance, which would not be for several days, as Jumbo had swam from this island to the south of Aberdeen, and would therefore be many days journeying so far as the North Tribe encampment. In pursuance of this design, I went to the jungles supplied with a week's provisions, and took up a position on the coast about eight or nine miles northward, where I remained five days. The plan quite succeeded; for I drew round me several Andamanese, and at last Jumbo also came into my encampment, and he and the rest returned with me to Ross Island.

I am happy to state that now the good understanding with them has been completely restored, and we are on the best of terms with them. Jumbo was kept here a few days and then sent back to the mainland, and he now by his own wish remains at the North Outpost Home established for them on the mainland. All the others who formerly escaped, including the prisoners Moriarty and Sandys Sahib of the South Tribe, are at the present moment on this island, all having returned of their own accord, in number thirty-eight, but no longer under any restriction (!) for they are not watched by parawallahs, and are at liberty to return to the mainland and their own homes whenever they are so disposed,—a liberty of which they freely avail themselves, but do not leave us altogether, for they generally return after a few days' absence, swimming across, or in canoes which I have provided for them.

As soon as a ship now appears in port they swim to it and beg for plantains; and if pice, of which they now know the use and appreciate the value, are thrown to them, they dive to a great depth for them,—even the small children being very successful at these feats.

We are making some use of them now in trying to recover escaped convicts by their means, and though the experiment has not yet been quite successful, there is sufficient reason to hope that it will be; and



the convicts, amongst whom the report has already spread that we are sending the aborigines into the jungles after runaways, will be deterred from trying to escape, by fear of having such rough police to deal with, and we may hope, therefore, that much less will now be heard of such escapes which have been so frequent lately. Crusoe and another man of his tribe were sent southward, by Major Ford's desire, to search for three Burmans who had not been heard of for a month, and one of whom left armed with a musket. A written order closed and sealed in which the Burmans were required to return immediately, and informed that the Andamanese had been sent in search of them, was put into Crusoe's hands, and he was told to deliver it to them. I then took him to the South Outpost Home, gave in charge of the Tolidar of that Outpost beads, knives, and other presents, which Crusoe was informed were to be given to him as soon as he returned with the convicts; and having supplied him and his companion with rice for seven days consumption, a cooking pot, box of matches, and also bows and arrows, which I cautioned them on no account to use against the Burmans, despatched them on their mission. In three days they returned without the Burmans whom they declared they had searched for in vain all over the mainland, but dragging after them an unfortunate convict self-supporter whom they had found some distance to the south, hunting pigs, and threatened to shoot if he did not immediately follow them. Crusoe claimed the reward which the Tolidar refused, telling him that he had not earned it, as the Bengalee before them was not a runaway and evidently not a Burman. (Crusoe should have been given a reward.—*M. V. P.*) I doubt, however, if Crusoe went so far to the south as was pretended, for others whom I wished to accompany him demurred, fearing to encounter a tribe in the south, whom they call "Jarrahwadder" (Jàrawa-da), their name for their own tribe is "Eleahwadder" (not understood,? "descended from Chána Élé-wàdi), and for the natives of the Archipelago Islands "Ballawadder". (Balawa-da);—the latter they describe as not having a language, and being extremely ferocious; they are a tribe of whom absolutely nothing is known.



CSL

(Here Mr. Corbyn has evidently misunderstood Crusoe, who probably told him that the Balawa-da did not talk the language he did. They are the mildest of all the tribes, and were known to the Āka-Béa-da, whom they used to meet at Kyd Island.—*M. V. P.*)

A very creditable act of humanity on the part of the North Tribe aborigines, which was lately related to me by a Native convict who was the object of it, deserves to be recorded. This man, a Punjabee boatman, escaped from this Settlement with some other convicts in November, and travelled many miles northward till they came to a clearance in the interior, as extensive, he says, as Chatham, where was a large Andamanese encampment. (No such clearance existed.—*M. V. P.*)

Here these convicts remained a few days, kindly treated by the aborigines, but he became very ill and his companions left him. The Andamanese, more merciful than the convicts, administered various remedies and treated him most kindly, and finding that he showed no symptoms of recovery, three of them took him up and bearing him upon their shoulders carried him every day considerable distances along the coast till, in eight days' march, they brought him to North Point. Arrived there, they hailed a boat and asked the boatmen to bring them also to Ross Island, but their request was refused, and they went away unrequited for an act of mercy which cannot be too much extolled, or too long remembered in their favour. (If true.—*M. V. P.*)

I have already made allusion to the establishment of two Outpost Homes on the mainland, the object of which is to promote intercourse and friendly intimacy with the aborigines. Clearances of land have been made, and two buildings erected.

I have hopes of our being able to induce the Andamanese to cultivate the soil and render other useful services to us.

H. CORBYN.

PORT BLAIR;

The 16th May, 1864.

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(This cultivation of the soil by the Andamanese has been an *ignis fatuus* to many officers. It is impossible to turn, by an order, or in a few years, or even in one generation, a hunting and nomadic, into a pastoral people. The labour of clearing, and keeping cleared, the jungle would be far too great for the Andamanese. They prefer, as food, the products of the chase to the products of the soil, and their dirty habits do not permit them to remain very long in one place.—*M.V.P.*)

The following letter shows the circumstances which led to the application for the present grant-in-aid of Rs200 per mensem to the Andaman Home.

Letter, No. 19, from the Revd. Henry Corbyn, Chaplain of Port Blair, to Major B. Ford, Officiating Superintendent of Port Blair. Dated, Ross Island, the 20th May, 1864.

“The expenses of supporting the Andamanese under my care having greatly increased, since the establishment of two Homes for them on the mainland, I am obliged to beg of you to render me increased assistance in carrying out the views and wishes of Government for their civilization, pending the reply of Government to my application for a larger allowance.

“On the date of my last report to Government, 16th instant, there were no less than thirty-eight aborigines of the North and South Tribes on this island, dependent on the funds of the Home for their diet and clothing; and, in addition to these, forty have to be daily fed on the mainland on grain, purchased at the Commissariat stores, at a cost quite equal to that of the laboring convicts.

“It cannot be expected that, with all the other miscellaneous expenses of the Home, I can continue to support, in food and clothing, such a large and daily increasing number of the aborigines on the present monthly allowance; the expense of clothing them alone would be so considerable an item that, in consequence of my inability to meet it, many of them are obliged to go naked. (There could have been no need to feed the people on the mainland on grain. The only reason why the Andamanese in the Homes at the present day are fed by the Home is because their time is taken up in working for the



Government, and they have no leisure to procure their own food. Also a small loin cloth, which would not have been very expensive, would have been ample clothing for the savages, for whom too much clothing is not desirable—*M.V.P.*)

“You will have seen, from my accounts rendered to you, how large a sum I have advanced out of my own private funds to defray expenses already incurred on behalf of the Home,—incurred, it is true, on my own responsibility, but with views and for objects which I believed the result would justify, and Government would at some future time approve, so persuaded was I of their importance that, if it had been necessary to have incurred those expenses without aid from Government, I should not have hesitated to do so; and indeed, it will be seen from my accounts that, though the expenses of the Home commenced in the month of June, no part of the Government allowance was paid to me till late in November, when I received R100, and again on the 8th December, five months arrears of allowances due, which could not be drawn sooner because it had not been sanctioned.

“I am sure Government will not wish me to sustain more pecuniary loss, through my having voluntarily undertaken duties which, in themselves, are sufficiently onerous.

“Before my application for an increased allowance to the Home can be laid before Government and their reply received, much time will elapse. In the meantime, I beg of you, as the Superintendent of this Settlement, to render me all possible assistance in meeting the demands of our improved relations, and advancing intercourse with both tribes of the aborigines in the neighbourhood of the Settlement.

“Should you not feel authorized to render pecuniary aid, in anticipation of Government sanction, there are other ways in which you can materially help to diminish the expense of the Home, and to support the aborigines.

“I beg leave to indicate some of them—

“*1st.*—It is advertised that there will be a sale by auction next Wednesday, at the Commissariat Store-rooms, of “cargo rice” in-



tended for the Government elephants, but now not required, which is unfit for convicts' food, (though if the bazaar convicts, self-supporting "bunneahs," buy it, they will probably sell it again to the labouring convicts, mixed with good rice), but would be very much appreciated by people like the aborigines, who are accustomed to coarse fare, and, therefore, are not so likely to be impaired in health by it. As it is expected that this rice will not realise one-fourth of its value, its sale would be a loss to Government, but its distribution amongst the poor Andamanese would serve a useful and merciful purpose.

"*2nd.*—I have also heard that there will soon be condemned bullocks for disposal? These would be of great use to the Andamanese on the mainland.

"*3rd.*—All cattle which die from disease, or other natural causes, might be sent to the outposts for their sustenance. Colonel Tytler formerly issued an order, which has not been carried out for many months past, that all cattle dying naturally, after being landed on this Island, should be forthwith conveyed to the mainland and left there for the aborigines.

"I am happy to inform you that the aborigines at North Outpost have quite altered their manner and behaviour towards the convicts there. The Tolidar informs me that they give them more than they take from them, sharing with the convicts fruit which they bring in from the jungles, and fish of considerable size, three or four feet in length, which they obtain in great abundance. He is now gently and gradually leading them to work; and endeavouring to make them understand that they must earn the food which we give them; they still continue to bring their bows and arrows, but only to shoot fish with."

Major Ford, in forwarding the above letter, and Mr. Corbyn's third Narrative to the Government of India, writes in letter No. 20A., dated the 6th June, 1864:—

"I have the honor to forward, enclosed, the continuation of Mr. Corbyn's third Narrative, which takes up his account of events occurring with the Andaman tribes during February last, on the 15th



of which month I assumed officiating charge of this Settlement. Mr. Corbyn records now, that, shortly afterwards the Andamanese, who I found here, some forty in number, including women and children, all escaped to the mainland, swimming over to North or South Points; it was in the last attempt of this kind that Topsy, (the wife of Jumbo), who had often before evinced a most friendly and trusting disposition towards the British, was drowned; her body was found a day or two after at South Point, --- she had been in ill-health and most probably had not strength to gain the opposite shore.

2. "After carefully considering all circumstances connected with these escapes, and having previously observed the system hitherto adopted for the management of the Andamanese here, I came to the conclusion that it was impolitic to restrain them on Ross Island; that they must be free to go and come amongst us; but as this might in time, and as confidence increased, lead to the visits of larger numbers than it would be safe to have here on Ross Island, and whose care and attendance would involve a larger expenditure of convict labour and duty than the Settlement, with such a press of public works as is at present the case, can afford, I determined for these and some other considerations, all adding weight to my decision, but not necessary to record here, to cause two outpost 'Homes' to be formed, and accompanied by Mr. Corbyn, selected two localities, each at the head of a small cove, --- one on the north, and the other on the south mainland shore, situated at about the same distance (three or four miles) from Ross Island, where, at each, I have given materials for the construction of a large hut, and have stationed two armed police, and a small working party; some six (from the Andaman Home) orderlies who have been accustomed to, and get on well with, the aborigines, and a small boat for their communication. Here they have been supplied with as tock of provisions, a few presents, etc., with which they feed and conciliate any Andamanese visitors; any of whom, wishing to visit Mr. Corbyn or myself, are at liberty to find their way over to Ross in a small canoe stationed at each out-post for this purpose. They are then allowed to stay a day or two, if they like, at the Andaman Home, which I have removed



from the old site to one more under Mr. Corbyn's eye, and not quite so public,—a necessary arrangement, having now several married Christian women here. It will be necessary temporarily to withdraw or reduce the strength of the party at the outposts during the south-west monsoon, when bad weather may often render it a matter of difficulty to keep up supplies of food, etc., for a large party, as also to provide medical aid.

“3. As stated by Mr. Corbyn, I have endeavoured to utilise the Andamanese, by trying through them to recapture some recently escaped convicts; they have not as yet been successful. It is something, however, to have got them to understand, as they now do, that I will reward them for bringing in anyone who they find beyond our Settlement, if they bring him *unharmed*.

“4. In conclusion, I beg to bring to the favourable notice of Government, the unwearied exertions of Mr. Corbyn to improve our good understanding with the people of these islands,—in so doing I beg to submit a copy of his letter to me, urging an increase to the Andaman Home allowance to R200 a month, which I beg respectfully to recommend may be granted,—principally that he may have some means wherewith to start a school for such Andamanese children whose parents can be induced to let them remain somewhat longer on Ross Island, where I propose it should be established; and which will doubtless, be a further means towards the civilizing of these people, and extending our influence amongst their tribes.”

(It was afterwards found that a school on Ross Island was a mistake, as the children were too closely associated with the soldiers and convicts, and learnt to drink, and a number of other bad habits.—*M. V. P.*)

It is due to Mr. Corbyn that his own accounts of his dealings with the Andamanese should be given, and I therefore publish them in full, but on Major Ford taking charge of the Settlement he found it necessary to make changes in the Andaman Home which led to Mr. Corbyn's resignation of the charge of it, and on the 22nd June, 1864, Mr. J. N. Homfray was appointed to the charge in his place.



What should have led Mr. Corbyn to suspect that all was not going well in the Home was that, on the 1st March, 1864, all the Andamanese who had been staying in it escaped by swimming to the mainland. Mr. Corbyn went to the northward in the *Diana* to look for them and caught five of the Northern Tribe, and one of the Southern, thus showing that he considered them to be under some sort of restraint. On the 10th, the officers of the *Diana* had a friendly interview with some of the Southern Tribe, and it became evident that they did not dislike us personally, but they objected to the semi-captivity in which they were kept on Ross Island.

On the 26th March, 1864, the dead body of an Andamanese woman was found lying on South Point beach. The remains could not be identified, but were said at the time to be those of Topsy, the wife of Jumbo, who had done so much good service for us. She was in ill-health when she escaped from Ross, and is believed to have been drowned in swimming across.

Mr. Corbyn remarked that it was very difficult to induce the Andamanese to remain with us. Jumbo was put in irons by him for running away, and swam across to the mainland in these. Major Ford objected to this restraint, or to irons being put on the Andamanese at all, and opened two Homes for the aborigines on the mainland, at Lekera-Bárnga, and South Corbyn's Cove. Three trusty convicts, accustomed to the Andamanese, were kept in these, and a store of condemned grain, biscuits, etc., to be used as presents. Any Andamanese who came to these Homes was allowed to remain as long as he liked, and was fed. If the aborigines wanted to come to Ross, on lighting a signal fire at the nearest point opposite on the mainland, a canoe was sent over for them.

On one occasion Major Ford went in the *Diana* to North Bay and was hailed by two "runaway" Andamanese women, Harriett of the South Tribe, and Annie of the North Tribe, who willingly came on board, and went on to Port Meadows, Middle Strait, Port Campbell, Port Mouat, Redskin Island, where there had shortly before been a friendly meeting between our people and the Andamanese of the South Tribe, and Jollyboys' Island. The party returned



through MacPherson's Straits. Very few Andamanese were seen on this trip, but those who were met with (and who, of course, were all members of the Áka-Béa-da tribe) were all friendly.

At this time an allowance of R200 per mensem for the Andaman Homes was granted by the Government of India in Letter No. 1670, dated 28th July, 1864.

During the months of December, 1863, and January, 1864, the summit of Mount Harriet was cleared, and a road made to it. The Government of India enjoined great caution on all the parties employed on this work, and ordered that any collection of Andamanese in their neighbourhood should be discouraged as much as possible and intercourse with them prevented when not indispensable, as, seeing the tools in use, the Andamanese would be tempted to steal them, and thus disputes would be caused.

On the 2nd April, 1864, the Settlement was placed under the orders of the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, and attached to the Tenasserim Commissionership; and on the 7th of the month, Major General the Hon'ble Sir R. Napier, K.C.B., visited Port Blair officially. He approved of what was being done with regard to the aborigines. Towards the end of 1863 the treatment of the Andamanese by Mr. Corbyn seems to have suffered some unexplained change. The attention of the Government was drawn to this on the 15th January, 1864, when they note that they had formerly thought that the Andamanese under Mr. Corbyn were remaining voluntarily in the Settlement, and consider it doubtful whether any good can be expected from forcibly detaining the people, as it now appeared Mr. Corbyn's object to do. Major Ford was requested to report on the line of conduct Mr. Corbyn had now adopted towards these Andamanese, the majority of whom, it will be remembered, were originally induced by friendly overtures to come into the Settlement.

It would seem as if Mr. Corbyn was impatient with the Andamanese for not more readily taking to the mode of life he prescribed for them, and for adhering to their own customs; and he endeavoured by restraint and harsh treatment to compel them to do as he wished.

On the 31st May, 1864, the Government of India further note



that Jumbo had been put in irons for running away, and entirely disapprove of this proceeding.

They directed Mr. Corbyn to submit a Report of his proceedings with the Andamanese every month, and he somewhat surprised them by remarking that, "making friends with the Andamanese increased the number of escapes, as the convicts could now wander anywhere with impunity." The Government at once called on the Superintendent for a report on this matter, and Major Ford suggested that the Andamanese should be encouraged to recapture the runaway convicts, and bring them in unharmed, and that a reward should be given for every convict so brought in.

This suggestion was acted on from then till the present day, and the Andamanese in return for the benefits and attention they have received from us, have acted as a sort of jungle police.

Mr. Corbyn, however, objected to this proposal, on the ground that it would give the Andamanese a "police control" over the convicts, and they would then ill-use them, and let loose "their worst passions." In the meantime, an occurrence took place at the North Outpost which caused all friendly relations with the Andamanese to be broken off. On the 12th June, 1864, two of the Andamanese visiting at the North Home, got angry with the Sub-Gangman in charge there, because he would not give them all the food they wanted, and going out of the hut they were in with him, fired on him, wounding him twice; from the effects of these wounds he subsequently died. The Andamanese then ran away, and fired on some other convicts who were in their path, wounding one of them; these convicts closed round them to prevent their escape, when they wounded three more, and, dropping their bows and arrows, eluded the remainder and fled into the jungle. One of these wounded men also died from the effects of his injuries. The Andamanese aggressors were Jacko and Moriarty, who had always been well treated by us. There were other Andamanese men, and also women and children present, but they took no part in the affair which was entirely confined to the above-mentioned two. Major Ford intended to keep a small party at these outpost Homes during the south-west monsoon, but owing



to this occurrence he closed them altogether, and withdrew the convicts stationed there. He further ordered that no favour of any kind should be conferred on the Andamanese, and that those who visited us for the next three months should be treated with coldness. He stated, in reporting the matter to the Government of India, that this occurrence was much to be regretted, as the Andamanese were apparently never before so friendly. He objected to their restraint on Ross, and said that the Andaman Home had to be removed from its public position, on account of the Christian women on Ross who were offended by the sight of the Andamanese, and had been put in a more private place, under Mr. Corbyn's eye. On the 30th July, 1864, the Andamanese wished to resume friendly relations, but food was refused to all except children. After the affair at North Camp on the 12th June, they sent over two children to Mr. Corbyn and these were allowed to be fed, and were then sent away. This was evidently a "feeler" on the part of the Andamanese, and was seen to be so by Major Ford, who did not approve of it. The next day Jumbo and Jacko swam over, and Mr. Corbyn wanted to arrest them, but as we had attracted them by our own act on the previous day, of giving food to the children, Major Ford refused to allow this as it would look like treachery. He also refused Mr. Corbyn's request to give them food, and ordered them to be taken to the beach and told to go. Mr. Corbyn said that they told him that neither of them had anything to do with the North Camp affair, but Major Ford replied that Tolidar Gilbur Singh, with his dying breath had said that Jacko shot him. It also appeared afterwards that Jacko was the man who had shot Pratt, for which Jumbo and Snowball were unjustly punished. While this was going on, a party of about twenty Andamanese were swimming over from North Point to Ross, and being met by these two returning, all of them turned back to Aberdeen. While they were in the water a child of about ten years of age was washed ashore on Ross near Brigade Point and drowned. The party was followed by Mr. Homfray who had them escorted beyond Aberdeen into the jungle and told to go away.

Later on, a party of between twenty and thirty again swam from