

and on which articles for barter are stowed. The paddles have spear-shaped blades, measuring about 6 feet in length; some of very neat description, with blade and handle carved with some fanciful device.

As nothing farther could be done here, steam was in requisition, and before night set in we were fairly off, and out of sight of land. For a week we shaped an easterly course for the Admiralty Islands, sighting Boissy Islands, and on the 28th one of the Schouten Islands, and a few days later the Hermit group. Frequent soundings and dredgings were undertaken with good results, from an average depth of 2000 fathoms. The morning of the 3rd March turned out cloudy and wet. As the day advanced and the horizon cleared, three small islets were seen, which, according to D'Entrecasteaux's chart, lie off the north-west extremity of the Admiralty Islands. Shortly afterwards two other small islands came into view, all situated apparently on the same coral reef. As we approached, several canoes were seen under sail, crossing the line of breakers; and as they passed alongside, the natives made signs of amity by holding up their arms. On nearing the anchorage we found ourselves in the midst of a number of beautiful islands, all girt with white encircling reefs. Each seemed to have its own peculiar beauty; but the eye as well as the mind felt more satisfaction in resting on what was afterwards named Wild Island, where a fine beach was seen, protected from the heavy swell