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TWO SHEETS, FIVEPENCE

CONFLICTS WITH SAVAGES IN THE SOUTH SEA ISLANDS.

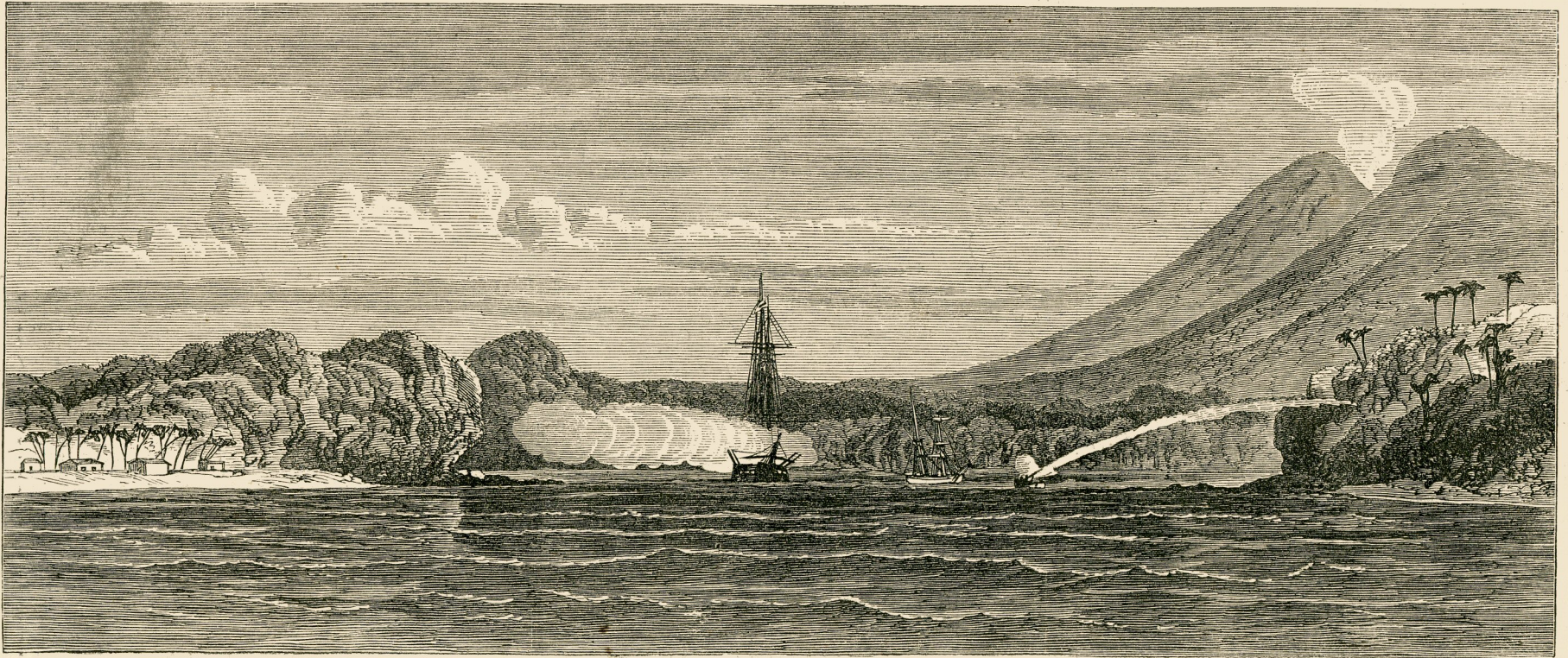
WE are indebted to Mr. Cecil Foljambe, midshipman of H.M.S. *Curaçoa*, for some Illustrations of the affair in which that ship was lately engaged with the savage tribes of the New Hebrides, in the South Pacific Ocean. It appears that, on the arrival of the *Curaçoa* at Tanna, such representations of the crimes perpetrated by one of the tribes at Port Resolution were made by the missionary whose life had often been attempted, and by his colleagues on board the mission brig, as showed that vigorous measures would prove the truest mercy. All efforts to obtain redress having been met with defiance, notice was sent to the tribe to remove their women and children out of range—a privilege of which most of the able-bodied men likewise availed themselves. On the following morning (the 12th of August) the ship opened fire with shell and rockets on the bush containing the hostile villages; all the persons not implicated in these crimes having been permitted to assemble at the settlement of a friendly tribe, which is shown in our View. About eleven o'clock, after discharging three or four broadsides, a landing party of 180 seamen and marines, commanded by Captain Dent, disembarked without opposition, covered by a brisk fire from guns manned by the officers, stewards, and others, who remained on board. Of all the swarms of armed savages who had covered the rocks at an earlier hour none were now visible; but, for want of a guide and from the excessive thickness of the bush, the search for the hostile village was an arduous one. No killed or wounded were found in the village; but, after its destruction, a party of twelve men, who, with a Lieutenant, were employed in cutting down the fruit-trees in a small detached plantation, were surrounded and attacked by a body of savages, who, having crept into the clearing, through the dense underscrub, killed one of the seamen and made the woods ring with their hideous yells. But in a very few minutes they were forced to retreat before the bayonets of the bluejackets, who, being reinforced by the rest of their comrades, together with the marines, converted the retreat of the savages into a flight; and their principal chief, named Quatangen, who had been trying to secure the body of the dying seaman for a loathsome feast, was cut down by one of the midshipmen, Mr. Heathcote. Next morning the ship sailed, the offending chiefs having made most ample submission, together with offers to rebuild the mission-house and church which they had destroyed. It

is satisfactory to mention that six weeks afterwards they proved the sincerity of their conversion by instantly avenging the death of an English sailor who had been treacherously murdered by a tribe in another part of the island. The Tannese confessed to a loss of four killed and many wounded, but it is believed there were very many more casualties as yet unknown to the informants. It was reported that one of the Armstrong percussion shells, which had failed to explode on striking the ground, burst afterwards, on being examined by some too curious natives, and killed several of them.

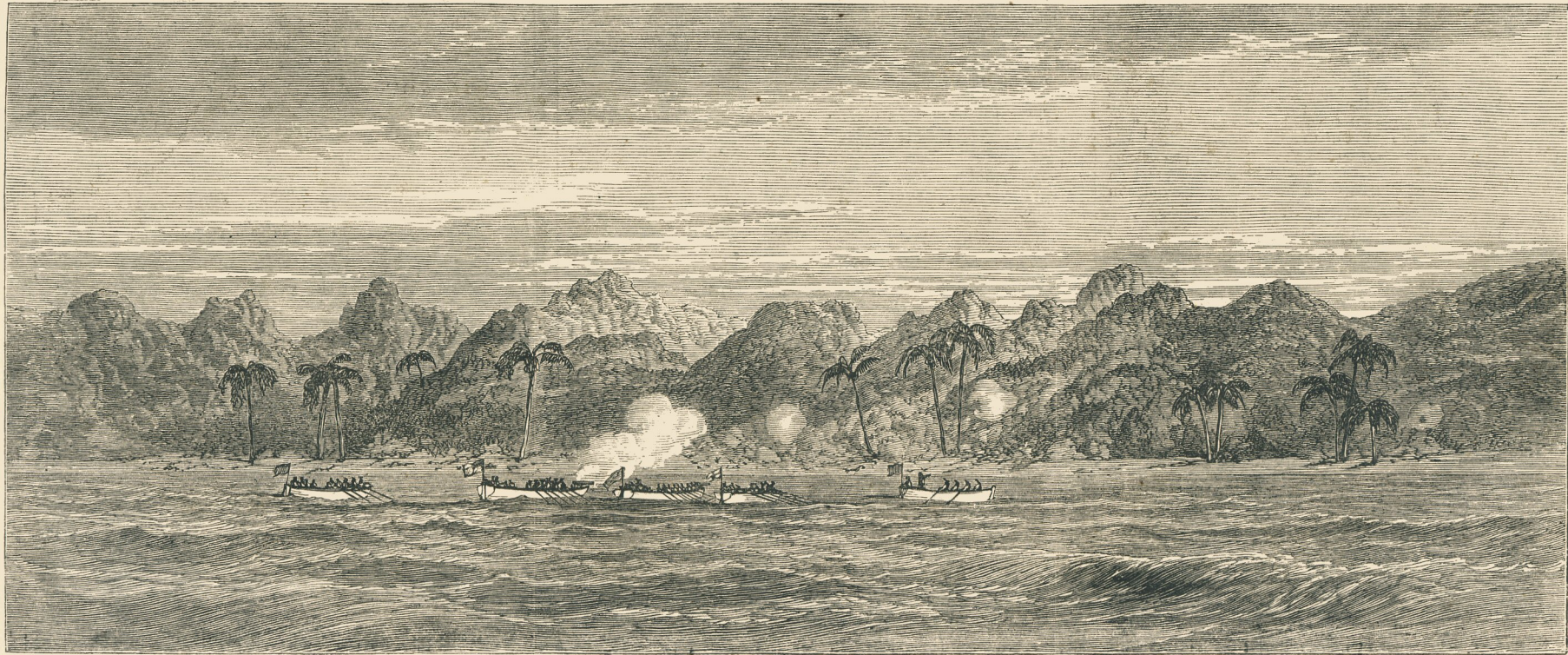
In the island of Erromanga the list of murders of English men and women is longer than in any other island in the Pacific—the latest, that of Mr. Fletcher, having occurred about two months before the visit of the *Curaçoa*, under circumstances of peculiar treachery and atrocity, which even the murderers themselves did not strive to palliate. The stronghold of these wretches, about six miles inland, was examined during the night by a Lieutenant with a guide, but as they found the position a difficult one, in a precipitous ravine, and strengthened by three hostile villages on the road, which is further commanded by overhanging cliffs, the castigation of this tribe was deferred until next year, when it is hoped that, with a stronger force, the miscreants may easily be brought to justice. The Scotch Church missionaries at the New Hebrides have been joined by Bishop Pattison with the mission schooner *Southern Cross*. After giving an emphatic warning to the chiefs of the seacoast village of Sifu, the frigate proceeded to the Solomon Islands. One of the sketches, which was taken at Ysabel, in the Solomon Islands, never before explored by white men, represents one of the little tree-forts from which the natives, in their petty wars, shower down arrows, stones, and spears on their assailants.

On calling at Erromanga again, on the way to New Caledonia, it was found that the cannibals at Sifu (who had feasted on a joint of Mr. Fletcher) had renewed the spoliation of the mission premises and their threats against the life of Mr. Gordon; so, after giving them a warning, as at Tanna, and attempting without success to carry out a plan for the seizure of the two principal murderers, the village, together with a fortified cave, shown in the Illustration, was shelled; but, the object being principally to show them a power of which they could previously have had no idea, only twenty shells and a few rockets were thrown in.

CONFLICTS WITH THE SAVAGES OF THE NEW HEBRIDES, SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN.



H.M.S. CURACOA SHELLING THE NATIVE VILLAGES ON THE ISLAND OF TANNA.



BOATS OF THE CURACOA LANDING SAILORS AND MARINES,—SEE PAGE 50.



FORTIFIED CAVE AT SIFU, ERROMANGA.



TREE-FORT AT YSABEL, IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS.