

going on'. One said 'I think he must be some swell's son, and he has spent his money, it is a pity such like chaps should come to this . . .'

The boat's crew now set off to join the brig which had "proceeded to the Straits to purchase flax, pork and potatoes". Boulton takes up the narrative:

. . . We reached Pahee, [Pahia] the most western settlement in Solander's Straits: As we approached the beach we saw some straggling natives carelessly walking towards the landing place; . . . On hauling up the boat, a white man made his appearance, dressed in a red shirt, and duck trowsers; this was no other than Jack Price of whom we had heard so many stories. He had a girl with him who spoke a few unconnected words of English. When we had secured our provisions and made the boat safe, we sat down to supper; surrounded by the boys, girls and women who remained, (all the men having gone to war with a tribe about 400 miles distant). It was amusing to see these people, peeping into our pockets, pulling up our trowsers, to see if we had good legs, and making other gestures, characteristic of the wild New Zealanders. The young woman who lived with Price was by far the best looking of the whole; her complexion was a bright olive, with a rather round face, black and large rolling eyes, and a luxuriant head of hair curling down in ringlets over her well formed shoulders. Some of the other girls were tolerably well-featured, but not so clean in their persons. However I felt in some degree attracted by those few charms they possessed, and I soon made choice of a female whom I presented with a brass curb, which I told her was an European lady's necklace! of this precious article the poor girl took special care, rubbing it over with ashes to brighten it, and as it was of brass, it was the more prizeable . . . I bought a few mats etc. and after answering their numerous half intelligible questions, the best way I could, I retired to sleep for the first time among natives.

Then follows a detailed description of the settlement comprising about 40 to 50 houses some about 30 feet long. ". . . The walls are about 2 feet high, but the roofs are lofty, being nearly 20 feet from the wall-plate to the ridge pole which is placed in a slanting direction, the highest end being next to the gable end where the door is. . . . On each side are platforms of a species of bamboo, which are elevated about 3 feet from the ground; on these the people sleep, or sit at work when they are making mats etc. The passage between the platforms is about 2 feet, and extends the length of the house."

They now proceeded to "Ruaboka" [Ruapuke] Island and it becomes