

did he see in the founding of his projected republic the means of obtaining an endless supply of sturdy labourers willing to work for sixpence a week and the annual increment of a new shirt and cap?

Webster, whose interest, one may suppose, lay more in the prospect of adventure than in the founding of a new state, eagerly agreed to accompany Boyd on his voyage. Besides being an artist of considerable ability, Webster was a keen observer with the ability to write down clearly what he saw. He has told the story of the voyage in a book called "The Last Cruise of the Wanderer," in which he describes minutely the scenery of the islands and the customs of the inhabitants, but in which, curiously enough, he makes no mention of any preparations for the founding of a republic. At the various islands which the yacht visited, the only activity in which Boyd seems to have indulged was that of going on shore to shoot pigeons—admittedly a harmless pastime, but not one calculated to promote democratic institutions.

The "Wanderer" was a schooner of 240 tons armed with twelve brass deck guns and a two-pounder long-tom. Besides Boyd and Webster, there were three other white men on board. The ship's crew consisted of islanders from the Kingsmill and New Hebrides Groups. There was a supply of pikes and tomahawks with which to arm them in case of an attempt to board the ship. The "Wanderer" first visited Hawaii, and then touched at various islands of the Kingsmill Group, where the Natives were friendly and peaceable, where there was a plentiful supply of fresh coconuts, and where Boyd was able to shoot a large number of pigeons without being molested. From there they steered for San Christoval in the Solomons, where Webster noted an ominous sign—the Natives always went armed. Boyd was cautious, continually advising his companions not to venture out of sight of the ship when going ashore. He thought so highly of the harbour at Makira "that he determined, at an early opportunity, on entering into a treaty with the principal Natives of the locality for

the purpose of acquiring and holding a tract of land, including Makira, for future commercial purposes." Was he forgetting his republic already?

There was nearly serious trouble at Makira, when Crawford, one of the white men of the party who had gone on shore to prepare a spar, had his axe stolen. The village was searched and the missing axe discovered in the house of the thief, who resisted and defended himself with a spear. Crawford and his friends withdrew on board while a crowd of angry Natives demonstrated on the beach. Having brought the "Wanderer" close in shore so that her guns commanded the village, Boyd demanded five pigs and one hundred yams as compensation. When eventually these were paid he returned the pigs and paid for the yams. From Makira the ship sailed and came to Guadalcanar.

Boyd, who had at first been so cautious about going ashore, now appeared to ignore the ominous signs that were so evident to his companions. The Natives of Guadalcanar, Webster writes, "were the wildest looking fellows I ever saw; their eyes not resting for a moment on anything, but glaring about like those of wild beasts, as if they expected we intended to offer them some treachery." The signs Webster describes are obviously those of desperate fear, and fear often drives men to violence. Was the dangerous state of mind these people were in unnoticed by Boyd? Or did he think that he could continue to overawe them with the guns of his ship? Early in the morning of October 15, 1851, he went on shore to shoot pigeons, attended only by his Native servant. Soon after he had gone beyond sight of the ship two shots were heard, but no notice was taken of them by those on board, who concluded, very naturally, that he was shooting at pigeons.

Natives now began to gather at the entrance to the creek up which Boyd had disappeared, and a great crowd of them came together on the beach opposite the ship, attempting by signs and gestures to entice the crew on shore. Their attitude soon became so threatening that Webster sounded a