

that a fleet was coming against them. They were assured that we had never heard of any such intention, and did not believe there existed any foundation whatever for the report. They then inquired about the state of feeling between England and America, and said they had heard that the latter were about to invade the territories of the English in India, and, adverting again to the friendship of the English, they all said it would be good for them, and for the people at Mauritius, if friendly and commercial intercourse were restored.

After other minor topics had been discussed, the judge rose to return; and we walked in the same direction to the house of Mr. Provint, a French merchant residing at Tamatave, by whom we were welcomed; and a short time afterwards we took our leave. The judge accompanied us to the road, and, with much apparent good-will, gave us his parting salutation, at the same time bidding some of the officers attend us to the beach. There was no suitable conveyance at hand belonging to the ship; but the officer in charge of a large government canoe lying on the beach placed it at our disposal, and sent a strong crew to convey us safely to our vessel, which we reached soon after sunset.

The chiefs appeared to have been pleased with the opportunity of conversing freely with persons in whose statements they felt they could fully confide, and whom they acknowledged they regarded as their friends; and we could not help desiring that this occasion might prove the earnest of many interviews equally satisfactory, and on more important subjects.

The next morning fresh provisions were readily allowed for the ship, and towards noon we went again on shore, and were met by our friend the harbour master, whom we accompanied to his house, where we walked with him over his garden. He informed us that our letters had been sent to the capital on the preceding day, and that answers might be expected in fifteen or sixteen days. He appeared anxious to know the