

After traveling a mile and a half along the shore, we came to Kayhena, a populous village where the people seemed, from the number of their canoes and nets, to be much engaged in fishing.

Their contrivance for launching and landing their canoes was curious and singular. The bold coast fronting this village is formed of perpendicular or overhanging rocks, from forty to sixty feet high, against which, this being the windward part of the island, the swell beats violently.

In one place, where there were a few low rocks about thirty feet from the shore, they had erected a kind of ladder. Two long poles, one tied to the end of the other, reached from these rocks to the top of the cliffs.

Two other poles, tied together in the same manner, were fixed parallel to the first two, and about four or five feet distant from them. Strong sticks, eight or ten feet long, were laid across these at right angles, and about two or three inches apart, which being fastened to the long poles with eeyeah, the tough fibrous roots of a climbing sort of plant, which they find in the woods. This formed the steps of this ingenious and useful ladder.

The canoes of the place were light and small, seldom carrying more than one man in each. A number were just landing, as we arrived at the place.

Two men went down, and stood close to the water's edge, on the leeward or southern side of the rock. The canoes were paddled up one at a time. The person in each, then watching a convenient opportunity, rowed swiftly to shore, when the rolling billow carried the canoe upon the rock, and it was seized by the two men who stood there to receive it.

At the same instant that it was grasped on each side by the men on the rock, the one in the canoe, who steered it, jumped into the sea, swam to the shore, and assisted them in carrying it up the ladder to the top of the cliff, where they placed it upon curiously carved stools, made of the wood of the erythrina, and returned to the rock to await the arrival of another canoe.

In this way five or six were brought up while we stood looking at them, and I took a sketch of their useful contrivance. We then walked to the house of the head man, which was large, and contained several families. A number of people soon gathered round us; and when they had expressed their wishes to hear what we had to say, I addressed them on the subject of our religion.