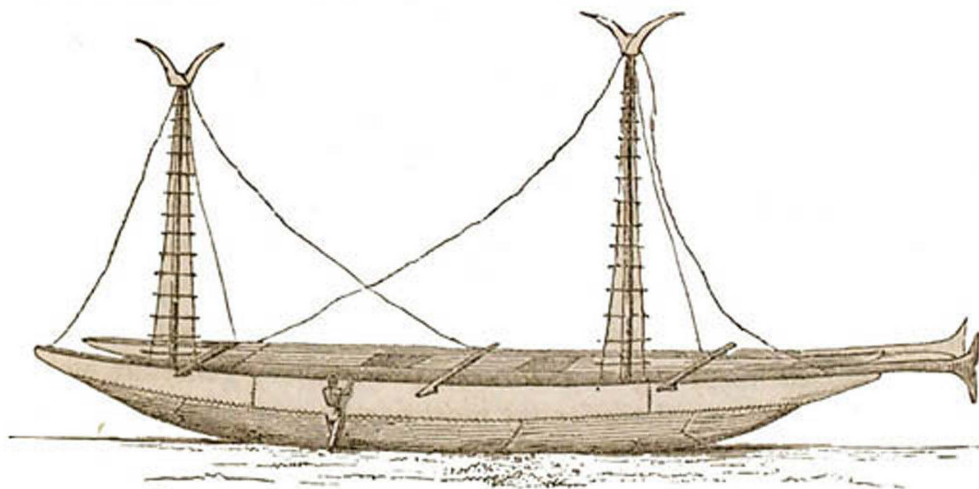


tinguish the Christian from the heathen party. The women have theirs cut close, and some are clothed in a pareu, consisting of three or four yards of cotton, others in a loose gown. They were any thing but good-looking; but the men were tall and well made. The variety of apparel was droll enough. As for the children, I have seldom seen finer; all were well formed, and as cheerful as they could be. They were for the most part naked. About two hundred inhabitants were counted on the island, most of whom belonged to Tahiti and Anaa, or Chain Island, and were here on a shelling voyage. They had arrived in two double canoes, such as are used in navigating from island to island; they were now drawn up on the beach. These vessels were apparently well taken care of, and in this situation we had a good opportunity of examining them. The annexed is a faithful representation of a double canoe.



DOUBLE CANOE OF THE PAUMOTU GROUP.

They are thirty-five feet long and four and a half feet wide, connected together by a strong framework, on which is placed a deck, and a temporary hut is erected on their voyages. Every part is neatly put together, and well secured with twine and sennit made of coconut fibres; no iron or metal of any kind is used in their construction; they have two masts, supported by vines in place of ropes, and are enabled to spread large mat sails; they steer with a large oar. After examining them, one can easily account for the long voyages which the natives have been sometimes able to accomplish. They find no difficulty in navigating them, and are now learning the use of the compass, but I am informed they still prefer sailing by the stars and sun, and seldom make any material error. Navigating as they do from island to island, they have not unfrequently been overtaken by storms, and some have been lost, while others have taken refuge or