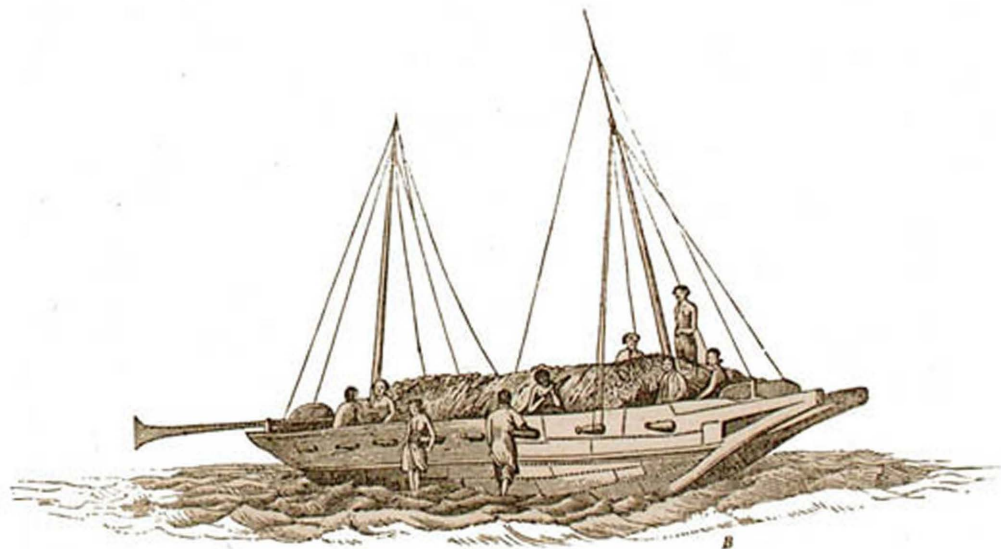


The advancement of civilization by their intercourse with the whites, together with the missionary influence, will put an end to this practice, and promote peace among all the islanders of the group; not only ameliorating the condition of the natives, but protecting the unfortunate mariner who may be wrecked within this dangerous archipelago.

From what has been said of the Paumotu Group, it is evident it can afford but few advantages for commercial enterprise; the only article which of late years has been sought for among the islands, is the pearl oyster-shell, of which considerable quantities have been obtained. The return will be noticed under the commerce of Tahiti, of which it forms a part. The vessels engaged in the fishery belong to foreigners, who reside at Tahiti. The mode of taking the oysters is by natives, who are employed as divers, for a very small compensation. It is much to be regretted, that the traders should have recourse to the demoralizing effects of spirits, in stimulating their exertions.

The natives themselves carry on a small trade in their double canoes, which it will be seen by the wood-cut below, have already undergone some modifications from that already given on a previous page, as formerly in use. These are principally the Chain Islanders, who supply themselves at Tahiti with various small articles, in exchange for their cocoa-nut oil and dried fish.



TRADING DOUBLE CANOE.