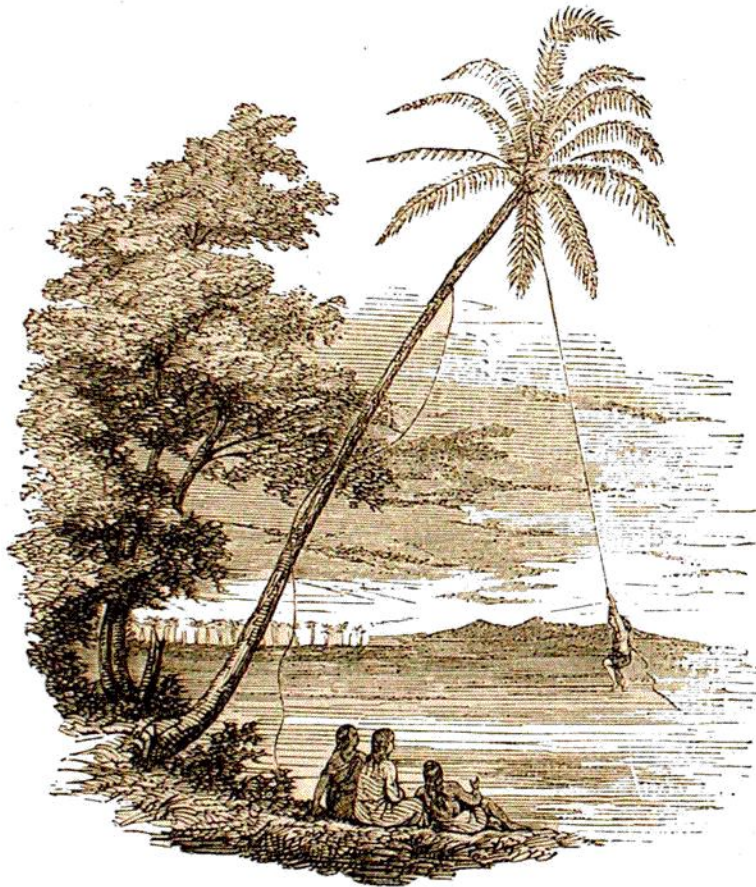


squadron was at Matavai Bay, the number of those who appeared to inhabit its shores would have given a very erroneous estimate of the usual population. They were assembled from every part of the island, and the right of occupying each spare nook in the houses of the permanent settlers, seems to be universally admitted. When this resource fails, they are to be seen beneath trees, or upon the beach, within a few feet of the water's edge, sleeping as soundly, although without any covering, as if they were beneath their own roofs.

Saturday is a holiday, and on it the children may be seen engaged in innocent plays and amusements, among which is swinging with a single rope from a tall cocoa-nut tree. This pastime is picturesque, and in good keeping with the landscape.



SWINGING TAHITI.

This people exhibits great curiosity, but does not manifest it by intrusive inquisitiveness. In our whole intercourse with them, we did not hear of a single act of theft, although there were innumerable opportunities for its commission, without the possibility of immediate detection. They seemed always in a good humour, gay, happy, and cheerful; nor did I witness a single quarrel among all the crowds that