

partly covered in at both ends. Some of them are capable of containing twenty or twenty-five men, and are very swift. The chief usually sits cross-legged on the forward platform or deck. They have an out-rigger, which is not so far removed from the canoe, and renders them more liable to be upset.

Several of the natives came on board. They were a finely-formed race, and appeared lively and well-disposed, though in a much wilder state than those of the Society Islands.

Our party, on landing, were immediately surrounded with natives willing to trade, and calling out for "bacca" (tobacco), which is in great request among them. Fish-hooks were also much sought for. A fowl, a bunch of bamboos, and a dozen of cocoa-nuts were procured for a small one.

They seemed willing to exchange any thing they had, viz., baskets, mats, spears, clubs, &c., to obtain these articles. They were not found altogether honest, though this did not consist in stealing, but in selling their articles twice over; for after we had made a purchase from one, another would claim the article as belonging to himself, and insist on also receiving a price for it.

Near the village are thick stone walls, intended to all appearances for defence. The houses are elliptical, supported on stout posts, about four feet high, from which the roof or thatching rises to the height of twelve or fifteen feet; they are generally erected on a raised terrace of stone, two feet above the ground. The floors are covered with coarse matting.

The king or chief of these islands resides at Oloosinga, in consequence of its being more easily defended.

The dress of the natives consists only of the maro, made of the leaves of the *Dracæna*, which has a graceful appearance. The leaves are slit, and form a kind of short petticoat.

The tattooing is of the same kind, as will be described in the general account of the Samoan Islands.

These islands furnish pigs, fowls, sweet-potatoes, fruit, and some taro. The vegetation was thought to be more luxuriant than at Tahiti, and the climate moister.

Many running streams were observed coursing down the sides of the island. When off the eastern end, we were much surprised to see the natives plunge off the rocks into the heavy surf to reach our boats.

After our party reached the ship, we made sail for Oloosinga, where I went on shore to see the king or chief, who was old and decrepit. His name is Lalelah. His brother, and presumptive successor,