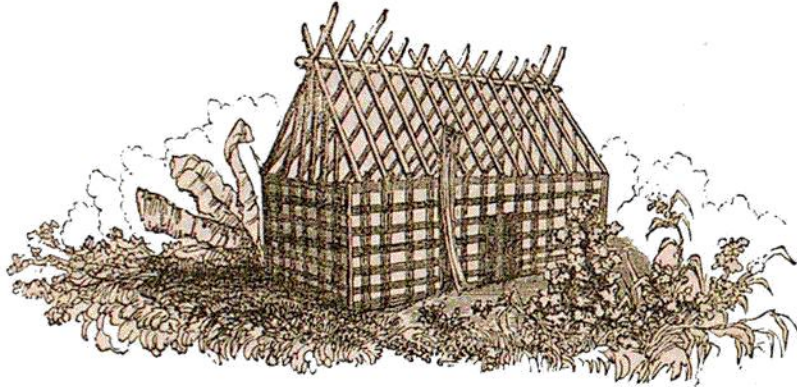


from three to four feet high, and four feet wide; the posts are set in the ground, and are placed about three feet apart; the rafters of the palm tree are set upon a plate, resting on the post; these have a very steep pitch, and support a cocoa-nut log, that forms the peak of the roof; the ends of the peak extend beyond the thatching at each end, and are covered with shells (*Cypræa ovula*). The thatching is peculiar, being thickest at the eaves; to make the roof they begin at the peak, whence they thatch down with the wild sugar-cane, under which they place fern-leaves. These gradually increase in quantity until they reach to the eaves, which are about two or three feet thick, project some distance over the sides, and are cut off square.



MODE OF BUILDING HOUSES.

The sides are closed in with small cane, in square wicker-work, and not in diamond-shape, as those of Tonga. Mats are hung before the doors. The mbures are built after the same manner, but the roofs are more peaked; they are generally fifteen or twenty feet square, and about thirty feet high, and have an exceedingly awkward appearance in our eyes. The common houses are oblong, from twenty to thirty feet in length, and fifteen feet high. Some of the best class of buildings, belonging to the chiefs, are exceedingly well and ingeniously built. If a person wishes to build a house, he carries a present of a whale's tooth to the king or chief, and tells him his wish, the size, &c. The king or chief orders the men who are generally employed for such purposes, to prepare the timber, and get all things ready. The direction of the work is given to some one as the chief superintendent, and from one to five hundred men are employed, as may be deemed necessary. The house is finished in ten or fifteen days, and will last about five years without repairs to its thatching. They are, however, generally considered as tenable for twenty years, or upwards. All the houses have fire-places a little on one side of the centre; these are nothing more than an ash-pit, with a few large stones to build the fire