

fruit tree, which is also used for smearing them over. They have generally a depth of hold of about seven feet, and the two ends, for a length of about twenty feet, are decked over to prevent the canoe from shipping seas. Amidships they generally have a small thatched house or cuddy, to protect the crew from the weather, above which is a staging, on which there is space for several people to sit. The frames of the canoes which belong to chiefs are much ornamented with shells.

The sails are so large as to appear out of all proportion to the vessel, and are made of tough yet pliable mats. The mast is about half the length of the canoe, and the yard and boom are usually twice as long as the mast. The mast is stepped on deck in a chock. The figure on the preceding page represents one of these canoes.

The halyards are passed over a crescent on the head of the mast. These are bent on nearly the length of the mast, from the tack of the yard.

The natives are very expert in managing these vessels, and it requires no small skill in beating against the wind to do so. In sailing the canoe, it is always necessary that the out-rigger should be towards the weather side; this is easily effected by proper care; the mode of tacking becomes therefore curious, and is performed by putting the helm up instead of down. When the wind is thus brought aft, the tack of the sail is carried to the other end of the canoe, which now becomes the bow, and the course on the other tack is then pursued. If the out-rigger gets to leeward while the canoe is under sail, some accident always happens, for no kind of vessel is so easily overturned; and yet, when they are properly managed, they will carry sail when it blows heavily, and still preserve almost an upright position: this is effected by the natives going out on the out-rigger, and thus counterbalancing the force of the wind by their weight. The canoes are made of logs hollowed out and built upon, and show a great deal of ingenuity: they are capable of making long voyages. The only food they provide themselves with for sea, is said to be yams. Altogether, they have a pretty effect, covered as they are with white shells (*Cypræa ovula*), and ornamented by white pennants. They use cocoa-nut shells to preserve their water in, and with a fire and ava-bowl are equipped for sea.

It is the custom for the chief always to hold the end of the sheet; thus it is his task to prevent the danger of upsetting. They steer with an oar having a large blade. In smooth water these canoes sail with great swiftness, but from the weight and force of the sail they are much strained, leaking at times very badly, requiring always one and