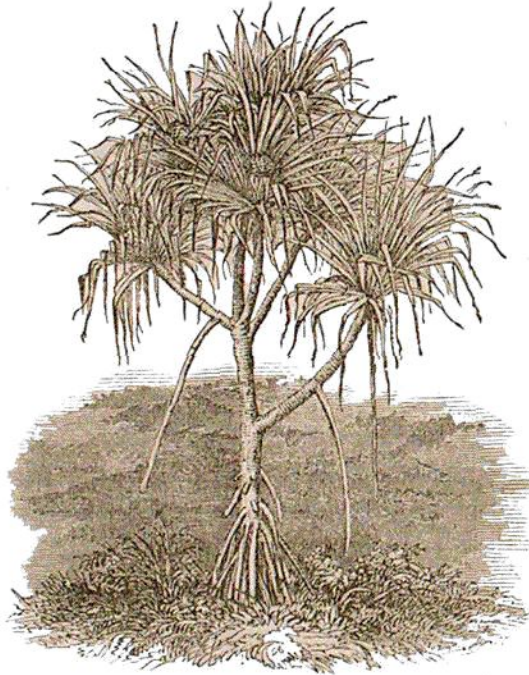


reaching Hilo before noon, and started, leaving the baggage to follow. Our route diverged somewhat from the sea-shore, and lay most of the way through a thick wood of pandanus. This tree is one of the most valuable to the natives: almost every part of it is of use, and especially the leaves; with these they thatch their houses, and make both fine and coarse mats. The women use the fruit, cut into sections and strung, for necklaces: they are of a bright red colour, tinged with orange and yellow, and at a little distance have a pretty effect upon their dark skins.

The mode of using a knife, for pointing the pandanus and other purposes, amused the sailors very much: it is held in either hand, with the point towards the body, and the article to be cut is drawn over it.



PANDANUS TREE.

The growth of the pandanus is peculiar: it forms whirls, generally from left to right, but occasionally one is seen turning in the opposite direction, and it becomes not a little puzzling to determine where they differ, unless the two happen to be seen together. Its mode of providing for its own support by the pendent roots, is an economy of nature that appears astonishing, and almost gives an idea that the tree possesses instinct. Many are to be seen very much inclined, that are in the act of putting forth several of these roots on one side, in order to prop themselves up, while not a single one shows itself on the other;