

however, of scarifying the body and limbs appears to be general. Dress they had none, except a small maro. A few words were found to resemble the other Polynesian dialects, but neither the Hawaiians nor Tahitians could communicate with them.

Only two or three women were seen: they were delicate in appearance, of light complexion, and feminine cast of features, with long glossy hair, and beautiful white teeth. Dr. Holmes remarks that their mammæ were immensely large. The women from their gestures proved themselves to possess habits fully as unchaste and profligate as elsewhere in Polynesia.

From what was seen of these natives, they appeared a ferocious and quarrelsome set, paying little attention or regard to the old men, whom they treated with great roughness. On the occasion of a canoe being overturned by coming in contact with a larger one, and drifting astern, an old man seized hold of the larger canoe, to save himself from following his boat; but instead of any assistance being offered him, his fingers were struck until he relinquished his hold and was obliged to seek his own canoe.

Few evidences of rank were observed among them, and but one was seen who had the appearance of being a chief. This was an old man, who was seated in the centre of a canoe, paddled by fifteen natives, who were striving hard to overtake the brig. He wore a sort of mantle of plaited leaves over his shoulders, with a fillet of leaves on his head, and his whole bearing and conduct betokened authority. A bunch of what were apparently cock's feathers was also noticed.

Spears made of cocoa-nut wood, from six to eight feet long, were the only weapons seen among them, with the exception of pieces of coral.

For ornaments they had strands of human hair braided and decorated with finger-nails half an inch long, and two to each strand. Only two or three of them wore short mantles.

Their canoes were of a dark-coloured wood, with a light out-rigger, and without sails: they were ingeniously constructed of pieces sewed together with sennit; they leaked badly, however, and it was necessary to keep one man constantly baling. They were the largest that had yet been seen constructed on a low island. These people appear to have few tools, and the only articles of European manufacture that were seen was a plane-iron fastened to a stick, in the form of an adze, with a few blue glass beads.

The island was by estimate fifty feet high, and was found to be nine miles long, north-northeast and south-southwest, and about five miles wide, with an extensive lagoon, having in it many coral