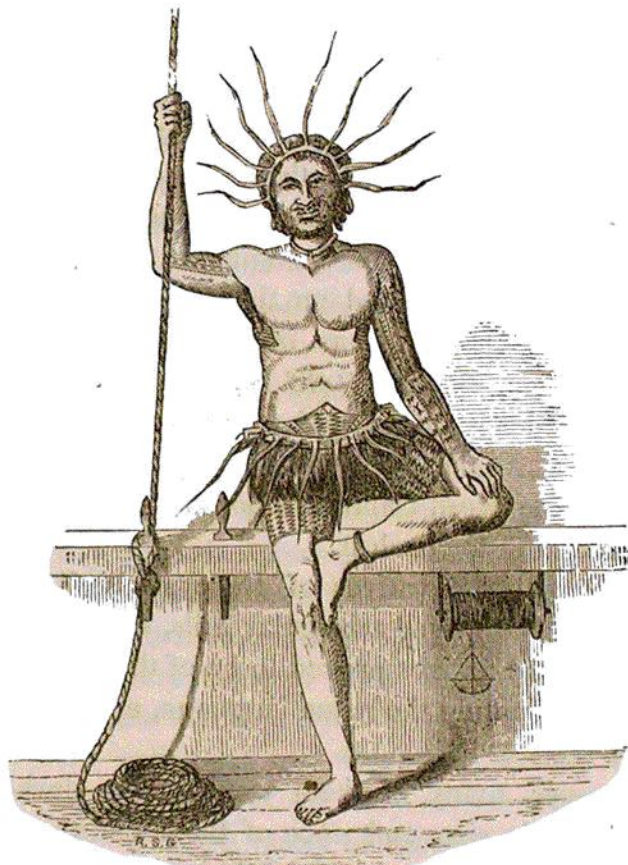


leaf, a foot long, dyed red, by way of ornament, which at a distance had the appearance of ribands.

One of the men was a petty chief, and was held in respect by his companions. There was another, whose costume was very peculiar: around the head and waist he had a strip of pandanus-leaves, which was so arranged as to form a series of points. The attitudes of these natives were equally singular: one of these is represented in the wood-cut.



COSTUME, ELLICE'S GROUP.

They had no other weapons but spears and knives, and seemed to be equipped for a fishing party, from the implements they had with them. Some rolls of sennit were bought, and large wooden shark-hooks. Their spears were only poles of cocoanut-wood, pointed at one end; and their knives made of small shark's teeth, inserted into a stick with gum and fine sennit, and are about a foot long.

It was soon found that they understood the Samoan language, and spoke a purely Polynesian dialect. The Samoan native easily conversed with them. They gave the name of the island as Fanafute. They seemed perfectly familiar with white men, and when the guns were fired for a base by sound, they showed no kind of alarm.