

seen were affected in this manner; and the skin of these was much lighter than in any Polynesian race they had met with. Among the natives were two albinos; the colour of their skin was of a reddish white, the hair of a flaxen white, with light-blue eyes, so weak as to oblige them to use a shade, and to keep their eyes constantly half closed. Their persons seemed also to be quite tender, and they avoided exposure to the sun by an additional mat over the shoulders. They were covered in many places with large brown freckles: their whole appearance was any thing but pleasing. The account they gave of themselves was, that their parents were the same as the rest of the islanders, and that their other children were dark.

The tattooing was in great variety on the body; but in all, the arms were tattooed alike, for there it varied only in quantity. On the body it was frequently extended across the back and to the abdomen; and in many, the bodies and thighs were tattooed down as far as the knee. Many of the natives designated the figures as intended to represent pigeons (*lupe*).

These islanders wore three kinds of mats, made of the pandanus-leaf: one was similar to that described at Ellice's Group, and worn as a maro; another was worn as a girdle, of thick fringe, from eight inches to a foot broad, tied about the loins so as to cover in part the maro: to this they gave the name of "takai;" the last was used as a wrapper about the body and legs. The fringes of these mats were all dyed of various colours, and the wrapper was tinged on one side in large patterns of divers colours, some in squares, others in diamond forms, which at a little distance had a pretty effect. These mats were worn for different purposes; and the latter seemed to belong to the higher or privileged orders, as the only person who was seen to wear one was the chief. A great many of these mats were brought off for sale, and bought.

On their approach to the ship, every one was seen to have a coconut leaflet tied around the neck,—a practice which attracted particular notice by their endeavour to keep it constantly in view, from which it was inferred, it might be with them a sign of amity and peace. In all, the lobe of the ear was bored, and distended to the size of an inch in diameter; around this they insert small rings of tortoise-shell, so neatly made that it is difficult to discern the place where they are joined. Many of them had shells and mother-of-pearl ornaments suspended round their necks.

officers, while others thought it might have resulted from exposure to the sun, and moisture of the climate.