

The majority of these islanders go entirely naked, excepting a covering for the head, consisting usually of the bleached pandanus-leaf. Mr. Agate's sketch of one, represented in the wood-cut, will give an idea of this head-dress.



DRUMMOND'S ISLANDER.

Although it has been said that the majority go naked, it must not be understood that the rest are clothed, for they wear no more than a sort of girdle, which, however, serves no purposes of decency, only covering the abdomen, and lower part of the back. Some few had over their shoulders a strip of matting, with a hole in the centre for the head to pass through, in order to protect their bodies from the sun. A few were tattooed very lightly, and in some it was scarcely distinguishable. Those that were so adorned had it from the breast to the ankles, consisting of short oblique marks, an inch or two in length, drawn parallel a quarter of an inch apart: there was a space both before and behind, of three inches wide, from the neck down, that was uncovered. No tattooing was seen on the face and arms. These natives soon showed that they were familiar and had had frequent intercourse with vessels, for on coming alongside, their first cry was for "rope." They had also a few Polynesian words of the different islands and groups that could be recognised, which they had obtained from the vessels that at various times had visited their island.

Their own language was totally different, and none on board could comprehend it.