

the meditated attack, before, or just as the hostile fleet touches their shore, assail their invaders to great advantage, while the men, stiff from being cramped in their canoes, and still under the effects of their sickness, are easily overcome.

It is only the young and vigorous who go on these expeditions, with a few of the older warriors to direct their operations. In their civil wars the old men and the women join in the combat, and the victors make no distinction of age or sex in the massacre which generally ensues.

The bodies of the slain are not generally eaten, but, according to their own account, it occasionally happens that when some noted warrior has been killed, the young men eat portions of his flesh from hatred, and through a desire to appear fierce and terrible. Kirby stated two cases in which he knew human flesh to have been eaten. One was that of an old man of Kuria, who had offended a chief on Apamama, and the other, of four slaves of the king, who had attempted to escape from the island in a canoe. All these were killed, and particular parts of their bodies eaten. The act, it was thought, was prompted by vindictiveness, and a desire to taste an unusual kind of food. We may therefore conclude that they are not to be considered as cannibals, though, according to Kirby, they seem to have no apparent disgust at eating human flesh.

In Makin, where they have had no wars for a hundred years, they are much less bloodthirsty, and during the seven years Wood was on the island, only one man was put to death. He does not believe that the people are cannibals, but he has frequently heard the old men relate, that during times of scarcity their ancestors sometimes ate human flesh.

The weapons used among them are spears, clubs, and swords, which are made of cocoanut-wood, and after the simplest fashion. Few of their clubs are carved, and they seem to bestow very little labour upon them; this, however, is appropriated to a different kind of weapon, which they consider much more effective: these are the shark's-teeth spears and swords, wood-cuts of which have been heretofore given. The natives of most of the islands show the effects of these weapons on their bodies and limbs. The armour they use as a protection also claims much of their attention. According to Kirby, this armour has been only a short time introduced or in use on the islands, and is not yet common in all of them. As defences, they seldom resort to strongholds,—indeed they have none in the northern islands; but at Taputeouea they have palisades or pickets, about eight or ten feet high, which surround the towns. Utiroa had a protection