

stone, of which it is entirely composed. In all the little swampy inlets and valleys sago-trees abound, and these supply the main subsistence of the natives. The forests afford abundance of timber, though not probably more so than other islands, and, from some unknown causes, these remote savages have made boat-building their study, in which art they pre-eminently excel. Their canoes and prahs are beautifully formed, broad and low in the centre, rising at each end, where they terminate in high pointed peaks, more or less carved, and ornamented with shells and waving plumes of cassowary's hair. They are not hollowed out of a tree, but are regularly built of planks running from end to end, accurately fitted together without a nail or particle of iron being used, the planks being dowelled together with wooden pegs, as a cooper fastens the head of a cask, and the whole afterwards strengthened by timbers, lashed with split rattan to solid cleats left for the purpose in each plank.

The village had a pretty appearance as seen from the anchorage ; but on landing the illusion was soon dispelled. There seems to be but little care or cleanliness in or around the houses ; but a ramble through the beautiful forests, hunting for plants and insects, many of which were altogether unknown, was very enjoyable.

*Sept. 26th.*—Left the anchorage this morning, and proceeded amongst a group of beautifully wooded