

Unlike the men, who were entirely naked, the women wear a sort of apron, about a foot square, made apparently of the pandanus leaf, divided into long grass-like shreds; their hair is cut short. Of personal ornaments, they had none; this seems to be almost the exclusive privilege of the men.

They would not permit us to look into their huts; so no idea could be formed of what they were like. The village consisted of some dozen or twenty houses, built on a platform on slender posts standing in the water, and connected with the mainland by a sort of bridge. They have tall tapering roofs, covered with palm leaves. As it was not considered safe to venture far (for they are known to be a treacherous race), after a few hours, the pinnace returned to the ship, still followed by a flotilla of canoes, with the lively and excitable natives trying to keep pace. The canoes, usually from 20 to 30 feet in length, are made from the trunk of a tree hollowed out like a long trough, roundly pointed at each end, not more than 18 inches wide; the sides bulge out below, and fall in again at the top, leaving only some 8 or 9 inches between the gunwales. The bow and stern are alike, and usually carved in various devices, some resembling birds, snakes, or other familiar objects. A long outrigger is attached, and on the portion of framing supporting these outriggers are planks or long bamboos, forming a small stage, which will accommodate two or more persons,