

houses a sleeping chamber is partitioned off at one end by means of mats. The only furniture to be seen within is the kaava bowl and the pillows, wooden rods supported on four legs, on which the neck is rested in sleep in order that the elaborately dressed hair may not be disarranged. Most Polynesians, and various other races, such as the modern Japanese, use similar pillows, and they were also used by the ancient Egyptians. Long practice is required to allow of their use. Near the houses are small sheds, underneath which a hole in the ground serves as an oven for cooking. The houses at Nukalofa are clustered under the cocoanut trees, with three or four open roadways between them.

The people are remarkably hospitable, and delighted to get a strange visitor into their

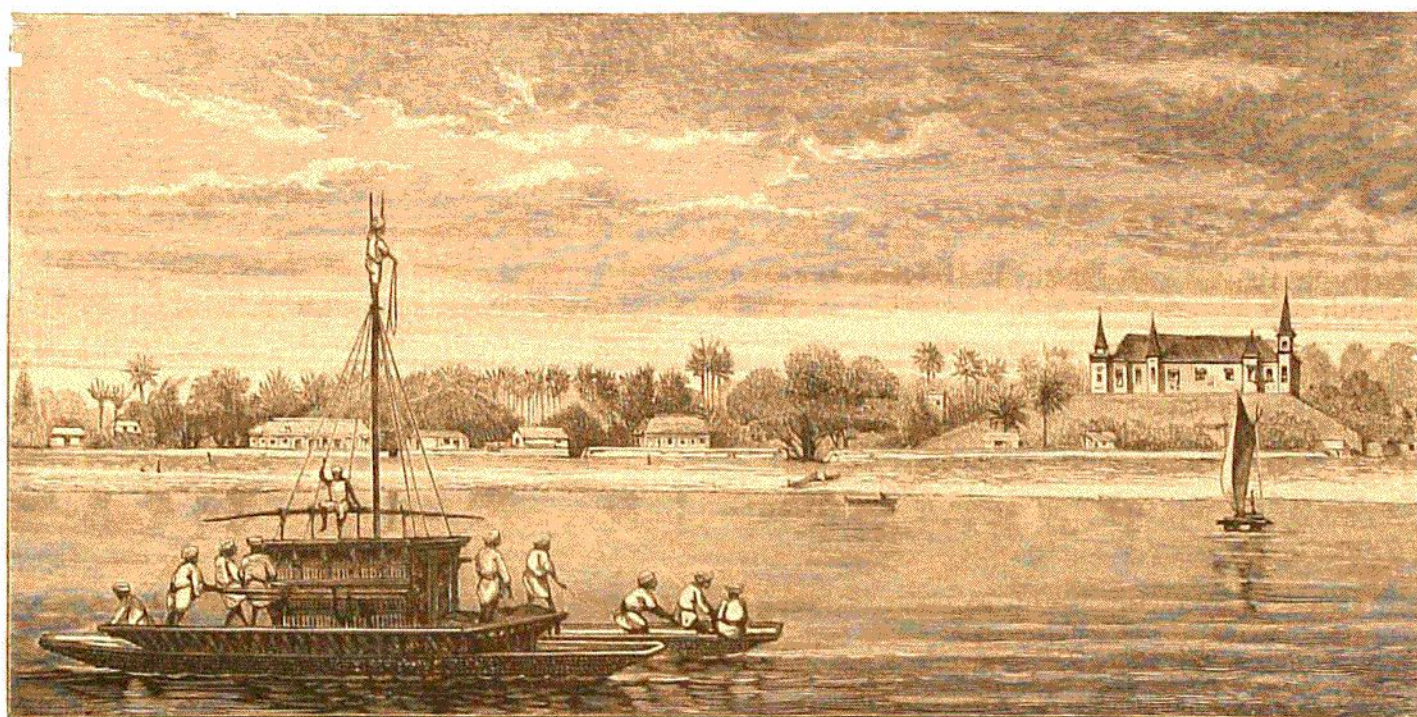


FIG. 175.—Nukalofa, Tongatabu.

houses to sit and communicate what little can be managed in this way between persons knowing almost nothing of each other's language. They offer kaava or cocoanuts as refreshment. The women are large, have fine figures, and are, most of them, handsome. They wear a cotton cloth round the loins reaching down below the knees, or often, and especially on week-days, a "tappa" or native cloth made from the bark of the paper mulberry. The missionaries have compelled them to cover their breasts, which is done with a flap of cloth thrown up in front, and a fine is imposed on any woman seen abroad without this additional covering. The women, however, evidently have little idea of shame in the matter, and often the cloth is put on so loosely that it affords no cover at all. The hair of the women was formerly cut short as amongst so many savages where the men keep to themselves the right of cultivating and decorating the hair, but now it is