

The musical instruments used are the Conch shells (*Triton*), perforated on the side as usual, a very simple Jew's-harp made of bamboo, of the usual Melanesian pattern, Pan-pipes, of three to five pipes of different lengths (the New Hebrides natives have Pan-pipes with three pipes), and lastly, drums. These latter are hollowed out cylinders of wood with only a narrow longitudinal slit opening to the exterior. Some of them are small, a foot and a half or so in length, and are sometimes carried in the canoes. The larger drums, seen only in the club houses, are cylinders, four feet in height and a foot and a half in diameter, and are fixed upright at the entrances of these houses. There were four such at the four corners of one club house. The slit in these is not more than four or five inches broad, and it is difficult to understand how the cylinders are hollowed out by the natives. Very similar drums exist at the New Hebrides, for example at Efate, where they are stuck upright in the ground in circles.¹

The natives seemed to have no idea of tune, they blew the notes on the Pan-pipes at hap-hazard. The chief of Wild Island blew with evident satisfaction a child's tin trumpet, which he appropriated from one of his subjects, to whom it had been given, and came off to the ship standing on his canoe platform and blowing it with all his might, with three bright coloured cricket belts which he had purchased, put on one above the other round his middle. The drums were frequently sounded on Wild Island, often in the afternoon. Such drums are used in New Guinea as signals.

The women, both old and young, dance, moving round in a ring with a quick step. The men signified that they danced too, but were not seen to do so. Some old women were seen performing a kind of incantation; four of them sat on the ground in the yard of one of the houses, facing one another in a circle, whilst two sat outside the circle; as before mentioned all had their faces and bodies blackened, and uttered at regular intervals a chant, "ai aiai aiai aiai umm." The commencement was shrill, in a high key, and the terminal "umm" was sounded low, with the peculiar humming lingering sound, just as in Fijian chants.

The village at D'Entrecasteaux Island is fortified, a palisade about 10 feet high stretching right across the corner of the island, where the village lies, shutting it off from the landing place. The path to the village led through a gate-like opening in the palisade, which did not seem in very good repair, and was without ditch or embankment. The village itself was surrounded by a second wall, low and crossed by stiles,

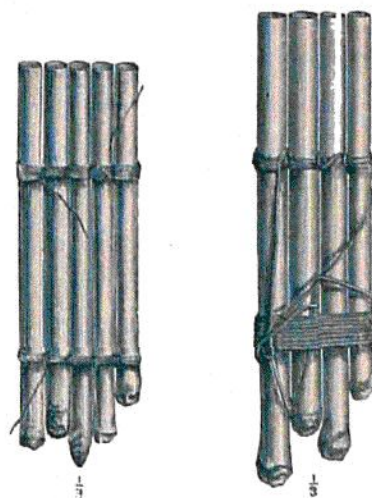


FIG. 256.—Admiralty Island Pan-pipes.

¹ F. A. Campbell, *A Year in the New Hebrides*, p. 111, figure Fili Id Efate, Melbourne, 1873.