

houses. The houses of the Tongans are small and oblong in shape, about 20 feet by 10 feet in dimension. The walls are of reed mats or plaited cocoanut leaves, and the thatch of reeds. The posts and beams, often of cocoanut stems, are lashed together with plaited cocoanut fibre. The ground within is simply covered with Pandanus mats. There are usually two doors or openings opposite one another in the middle of each side of the house, which are closed with a mat only. In most 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 use similar pillows, and very various other races, such as the ancient Egyptians and the modern Japanese. Long practice is required to allow of their use. I have tried a Japanese pillow, but found it far too painful to be endured for even half an hour.

Near the houses are small sheds, underneath which a hole in the ground serves as an oven for cooking.

The houses at Nukualofa 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 houses to sit and communicate what little can be managed in this way between persons knowing almost nothing of each other's languages. They offer kaava or cocoanuts as refreshment.

The women are large, they 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 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 often allowed to grow long and fall down the back. It is oiled and powdered with sandal-wood dust as a perfume. On Sundays a few women appear in complete European dress, wearing muslin gowns, and hats profusely decorated with gaudy artificial flowers. The girls are most accomplished coquettes.

The missionaries have prohibited dancing, and also the