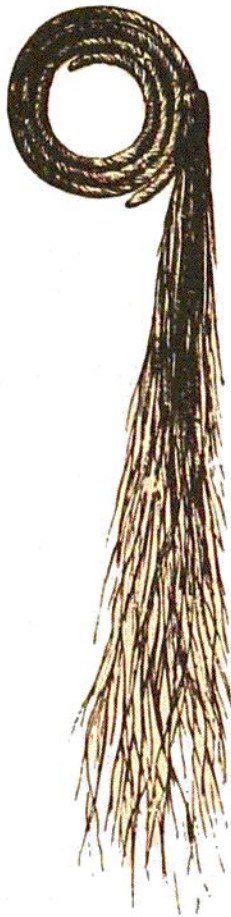
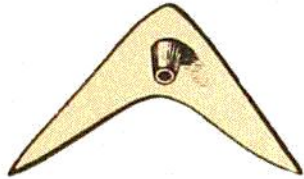


labourers, and were at once known by their having fastened to their waist-cloth the key of the chest which every labourer brings back with him, containing the fruits of his toil. Thus, even in Api, the labourers retain the property for which they have worked. Two men joined me on the reef. One had been in Queensland, the other in Fiji. Both spoke a good deal of English; and one said he was willing to go to Fiji again.



CHARM CUT OUT OF  
THE SEPTUM OF A  
NAUTILUS SHELL,  
AND EARRING MADE  
OF TORTOISESHELL,  
AND A PIG'S TAIL.  
API ISLAND.

Nearly all the men wore, tied round their necks, a small triangular ornament, cut out of one of the septa of the pearly Nautilus shell, and threaded by the syphon hole in it. Many had broad flat tortoiseshell bracelets, and nearly all had earrings made of narrow strips of tortoiseshell moulded into a flat spiral, from which hung sometimes, as ornaments, the tips of pigs' tails.

The bows used by the natives are made of hard wood. The arrows are without feathers, but notched for the string, and made of reeds with heavy wood ends, and tips of human bone. The tips are all covered with poison, which is in the shape of a black incrustation. The arrows have an elaborate and artistically coloured decoration in the binding round the part where the bone tips are inserted. The men were unwilling to part with these arrows, which they prize highly. They carry them rolled up in an oblong strip of plantain leaf, and showed by signs that they considered the poison deadly, and were much in awe of it.

The men have all of them cicatrization on their bodies, usually representing a human face, and placed sometimes on the shoulder, but more often upon the breast, and sometimes on both breasts. They understood the value of the usual trade articles very well. Knives, tobacco, and pipes were what they wanted most, but they were not at all eager to trade, and few weapons or ornaments were obtained from them. The tortoiseshell bracelets they would not part with at any price. It was very trying to leave a totally unknown island like Api after two hours only spent on the shore.