

good stead on other occasions, and which can be recommended to naturalists. Soon after I got on shore I examined a large stone with care and interest, turning it over once or twice, and then gave it him to carry, and when he had this ballast in addition to my vasculum, I found that I could keep on pretty good terms with him. In the evening, when we reached the boat, I conveyed the stone on board the ship with due solemnity and threw it overboard.

I was amused at the manner in which my guides met a heavy storm of rain. They had of course no umbrellas, but did not wish to get their clothes, which consisted merely of two coths, one worn round the shoulders and the other round the loins, wet. They simply stripped naked, rolled their clothes up tight inside a large Pandanus leaf, and so walked along with me till the rain was over, when they shook themselves dry and put their clothes on again. Meanwhile my clothes were wet through and had to dry on me.

A very large species of Screw-pine (*Pandanus*), with a fruit as big as a man's head, is common along the shore. It is a common east Indian littoral plant. The stem, though large, is soft and succulent, and hence with a small axe one can enjoy all the pleasure of felling a large tree without any fatigue. The deep cut made by a single blow is most gratifying to one's feelings of power, and having cut down one tree to obtain a specimen of the fruit, I found myself felling two or three others wantonly.

On the Island of Wokan, not far from the anchorage, Sago Palms abound in the swamps. Several parties of natives from the back country were living near the shore, having come from a distance in their boats, to prepare a store of sago to take home with them.

They lived in small low-roofed houses made of poles and reeds, and raised on posts about two feet above the swampy ground. These temporary houses were so low that the natives could only squat or lie in them. The men were darker than the inhabitants of Wokan in the neighbourhood, and looked to me more Papuan in appearance. They were armed with finely-made spears with iron blade-like points, six or eight inches long, and ornamented worked wooden handles. They would not part with these at any price.

They resented my looking into their house, no doubt because the women were there. The women seemed extremely shy, and huddled together out of the way, and the same was the case at Wanumbai. The men had wrist ornaments, closely similar in make to those common in New Guinea, at Humboldt Bay, and at the Admiralty Islands. These are broad band-