

of the high-peaked Malay roof into a sort of half tower, half spire, representing no doubt an equivalent of the dome. Under the eaves of the houses baskets were hung up for the fowls to nest in.

Some boys were playing near the village, and, as a toy, they had a very ingeniously made model of a spring gun, or rather spring bow, a trap by which a large arrow is shot into a wild pig, on its setting loose a catch. Our guide, a boy, wearing a turban, placed his hand on his turban and said, "Mahommed," and explained to Captain Tizard that the small boys at play, whose heads were bare, were not such as he, but heathen. He was evidently very proud of his religion.

The Ke Islanders, besides arrows like those of the Aru Islanders, use others which are peculiar. They are light thin narrow strips cut out of the long leaves of what I believe is a species of *Canna*. The strips are so cut that the stiff midrib of the leaf forms the shaft of the arrow, and portions of the wings of the leaf are left on at the base of the arrow to act as feathers. The point is simply sharpened with the knife.

These leaf arrows when dry are hard and stiff. They are very easily made by a few strokes of the knife, and a large bundle of them is carried by the archer. They are shot away at a bird in the bush, and no trouble is taken to find them again, as in the case of other arrows. They are so small and light that they make very little show in their flight, and no noise; I saw a youth shoot at least a dozen of them at a large Nutmeg Pigeon, without the bird's doing more than move its head, and start a little as they flew by almost touching it.

These Nutmeg Pigeons (*Carpophaga concinna*) are very large heavy birds. Some of those shot weighed 2 lbs. I got two at one shot as they sat on a branch on a high tree right over my head. They fell one on each side of me with a very heavy thud, and I believe would have stunned me had they not luckily just missed my head. I had never considered this danger before.

Mr. Darwin in his Journal* refers to *Epeira clavipes*, as said

* "Journal of Researches," p. 36.



ARROW CUT OUT
OF A CANNA
LEAF.