

the *châlet* the basement enclosed with stone walls is usually only a cattle-stall, the first story is the dwelling-house, and, as in the Malay building, is constructed of wood. It seems possible that the *châlet* is the ancient lake-dwelling gone on shore, like the Malay pile-dwelling, and that the substructure of masonry represents the piles which formerly supported the inhabited portion of the house. There are similar balconies in the *châlets* which possibly represent the platforms. A good deal of the carving of balconies, and some of the staircases, in the better constructed wooden houses in Ilo Ilo, reminded me very much of that of the same structures in *châlets*, though the resemblance in this case is accidental.

The most interesting feature about pile-dwellings seems to be their very wide geographical extension. Representatives of almost all races of man seem to have arrived at the same expedient, apparently not by any means a simple one, independently of one another. There are the well-known Pfhalbauten of Switzerland, in South America the similar houses of the Cuajiro Indians, on the Gulf of Maracaibo. In North America the Haidahs on the north-west coast construct similar habitations. Commander Cameron lately observed similar dwellings in Lake Mohrya, in Central Africa.* In New Zealand, the Lake Pas, which were mostly used as store-houses, are known from the Rev. Richard Taylor's description.† In this case, piles were driven into the bottom of the lake, and the interstices filled in with stones and mud, so as to form a platform.

There are the well-known New Guinea pile-dwellings, such as seen by us at Humboldt Bay, and there are also the pile-dwellings of all the Malay races. The Gilbert Islanders also construct houses raised on piles, and a number of these natives from the island of Arorai, who were taken to Tahiti, to serve as labourers on cotton estates, have put up houses of this kind for themselves in the latter islands, amongst the very different dwellings of the Tahitians themselves.

It seems probable that the idea of a pile-dwelling has in many cases arisen through natives escaping from enemies by getting into a canoe or raft, and putting off from shore into a lake or the sea, out of harm's way. If the attacked had to stay on such a raft or canoe for some time, they would anchor it in shallow water with one or more poles, as the Fijians do with their canoes on rivers, and hence might easily be derived the idea of a platform supported on piles.

* S. L. Cameron, Comm. R.N., "Across Africa," Vol. II., p. 65. London, 1872.

† Rev. Richard Taylor, F.L.S., "On the New Zealand Lake Pas" Trans. N. Zealand Inst., Vol. V., 1872, p. 101.