

The use of kaava and of tobacco is entirely unknown to the natives.

The principal vegetable foods of the islanders are cocoanuts and sago. The sago is prepared into a farine, and preserved in hard cylindrical blocks about a foot in height, and six or eight inches in diameter. Specimens of the preparation have been placed in the Kew Museum.

Taro (*Caladium esculentum*) is also eaten. It is cultivated in small enclosures adjoining the houses, but to a very small extent, and there are no large clearings or cultivation of any kind to leave a mark on the general features of the vegetation of the islands as at Humboldt Bay, or Api, or Fiji. Plantains are grown sparingly round the houses. A Bread-fruit tree also grows about the villages. Several wild fruits, a Hog Plum (*Spondias*), a small Fig, and the fertile fronds of a Fern are eaten by the natives, and they have a Sugar-cane of better quality than that used at Humboldt Bay. Young cocoanut trees are planted about the houses, and carefully protected from injury by means of neatly-woven cylindrical fences. They are also planted with care on the uninhabited islands.

The natives have no Yams (*Dioscorea*), nor Sweet Potatoes.

The flesh of pigs is roasted by the natives, and served for eating, placed on a quantity of the prepared sago in large wooden bowls, which are often elaborately carved. The Opossum of the islands (*Cuscus*) is also roasted, and is carried about cold, roasted whole with head, tail and legs intact, ready to be torn with the teeth and eaten at any moment. I saw no boiling being done, but the earthenware pots made by the natives were evidently used for that purpose.

There are wells on the inhabited islands; they are at some little distance from the houses. They are shallow holes dug in the coral ground. They are kept covered in with sheets of bark, and at each, cocoanut-shell cups are hung up for drinking.

The houses of the natives are built on the ground,* and always close to the shore. They are all of an elongate beehive shape, occupying an oval area of ground. On Wild Island they are built of a continuous wall and thatch of grass and cocoanut leaves or similar material. They thus look like long haycocks somewhat.

In Dentrecaesteaux Island many of the houses have their walls built up neatly of wood cut into billets and piled as fire-wood is in Europe. The roofs are similar to those in Wild

* Jacobs, *l.c.*, p. 182, describes, as seen by him, "several large villages built on piles over the water," on the east coast of the Main Island.