

Island. They are supported on two stout posts rising from the foci of the oval floor of each house, and by a regular framework of rafters, etc. Shorter posts, placed along the walls at intervals, support the roofs at their periphery and the walls. Very often the ground is excavated to the depth of a foot or so beneath the house, so that the wall is partly of earth, and one has to step down to get into the house.

The dwelling-houses are mostly about 20 to 25 feet long, 10 to 15 feet in height, and about 10 feet in breadth. They have a low opening at one or both ends. To the main supporting posts of the roof are secured a series of wide horizontal shelves placed one above another, and on these shelves food, implements and weapons are kept. I saw these shelves in the women's houses. In some of the houses are also bed places, consisting of rough boards fastened against the side posts of the walls on one side, and supported by short special posts on the other. Arms and implements are suspended from the posts and rafters. The dwelling-houses have no further furniture. The posts are sometimes curved and painted, and occasionally a human skull is fastened to a post, or placed under the thatch. Everything about the houses is rough, and there is no neatness as in Fijian buildings.

About the houses in the villages, bright-red *Dracenas* are commonly planted as ornaments, representing the flower-garden in its most primitive stage. The temples are houses exactly like the dwelling-houses, but larger—about 20 feet long, 15 broad and 20 in height. Some have carved door-posts of wood, the respective carvings representing a male and female figure. The doors are closed by a kind of hurdle.

The canoes are more of the Polynesian than the Papuan form, *i.e.*, they have their bows and sterns low, and simply pointed, and not turned up and built so as to form figure-heads, as at New Guinea and the Aru Islands. The canoes' hulls are formed each of a hollowed trunk of a tree, with a single plank built on above it, and a gunwale-piece as a finish. The hollowed-out portion has slightly and equally rounded sides, and is not flat on one side and rounded on the other, as in the Carolines. The mast is stepped in the bottom of the canoe, just in front of the horizontal outrigger platform. A pole of about similar length, with a natural fork at the top, is stepped against the foremost end of the cross-bar of the horizontal outrigger, and it and the mast being inclined towards one another, the mast is fitted into the fork at the top of the pole, and roused down with a rope-stay so as to remain firm in that position. The bow and stern are ornamented with a simple carved ridge or two and with *Ovulum ovum* shells a single