

that he had five wives. I do not imagine that the aged are killed. I saw several aged miserably lean hags, one especially emaciated and disgusting to look upon, and also old men. On one occasion amongst a party of 42 natives in nine canoes there were two old men, one with grey hair, the other somewhat infirm. Children are carried by the women generally on the back, but sometimes on the hip astride.

The chief Oto pointed out one youth as his son, and took away presents which were given to him.

The village at Dentrecasteaux Island is fortified. A palisade about ten feet high stretches right across the corner of the island, where the village lies, shutting this off from the landing-place. The path to the village led through a gate-like opening in the palisade, which seemed in not very good repair. The palisade was without ditch or embankment. The village itself was surrounded by a second wall, low, and crossed by stiles; at Wild Island there was no fortification. The natives inhabit the small outlying islands, probably for protection from attack. Very few natives were seen living on the main land, and these few at one spot only. Former places of dwelling on the main land appear to have been abandoned. We saw no actual fighting, but in a quarrel about some barter alongside the ship, Oto, the chief, attempted to strike a native in another canoe from a distant small island. He was prevented by his own men, who held him back. The opposite party at once got their spears ready, and threatened him with them.

I saw no traces of Cannibalism, although an anonymous correspondent of the *Times* newspaper, writing from the ship, appears to have thought that he saw evidence of it, and Jacobs relates an instance of the occurrence of what he supposes was a Cannibal Feast.

There are several Temples in Wild Island; they have already been partially described. One such had as door-posts a male and female figure roughly carved in wood, but elaborately ornamented with incised patterns and colour. Between the legs of the female figure was represented a fish. There are in the same figure black patches with white spots, which appear to mark out the breasts. The hair in both figures is represented as cut short, and thus the mop of hair of the warrior is not represented in the male figure. No clothes, *i.e.*, T-bandage of bark-cloth, bulla shell, nor ornaments, such as ear-rings, nose ornaments, and breast-plates, are indicated on the figures, and the male figure has no weapons. The ears of both figures are, however, slit for ear-rings, and it is possible that a zone of diagonal ornament passing round the body of the male figure represents the plaited waistbelt com-