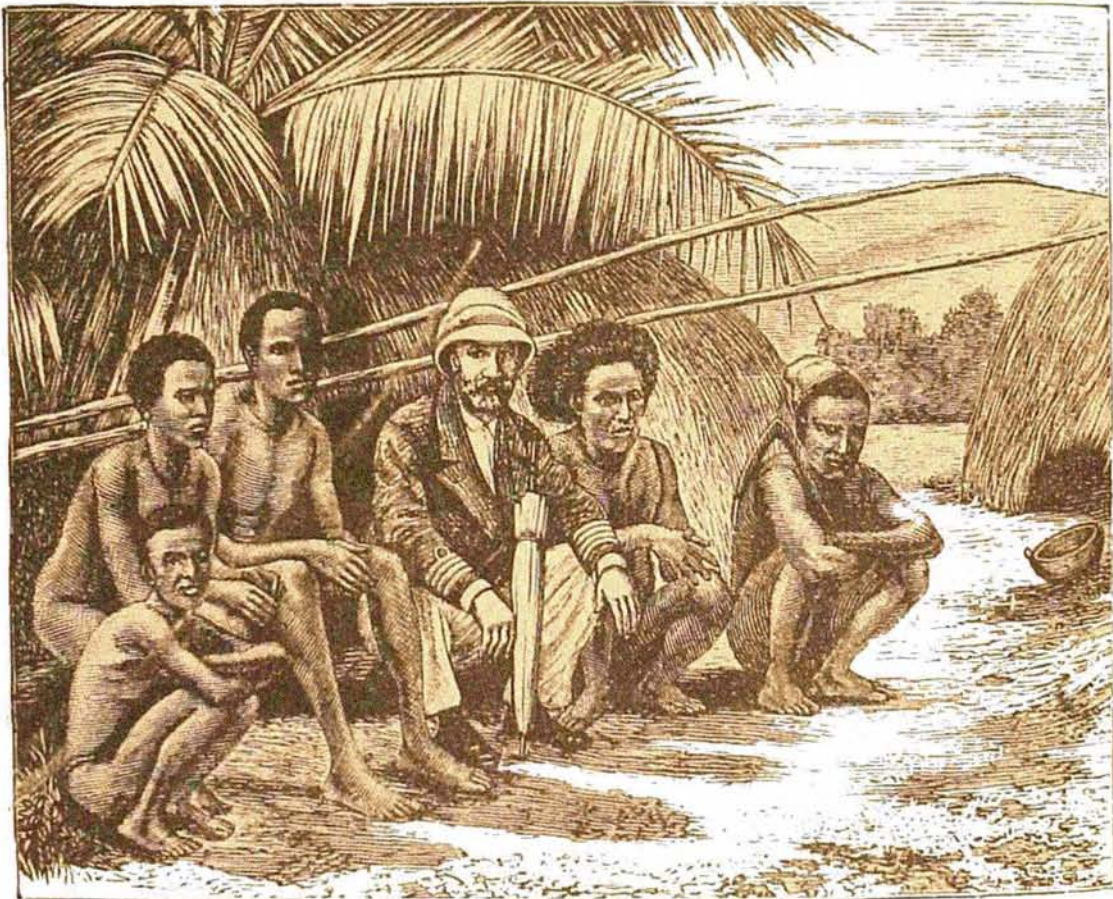


dozen only were purchased. The natives are very superstitious. When a group was being photographed, the old women put up two long poles transversely between themselves and it in order to protect themselves from its evil influence, and they could not be persuaded to sit until Captain Thomson seated himself in the centre of the group, and was taken with them. When I began sounding the big drums in the temple, my guides hastily drew me out of the place in terror, and made signs that the people from the chief's group of houses would come and cut my throat.



NATIVES OF THE ADMIRALTY ISLANDS WITH CAPTAIN F. T. THOMSON, R.N.
(From a photograph.)

A mystery was always made about the principal temple containing the images. Sometimes it was freely open, at others closed, and I was warned back by the chief on two occasions when I attempted to enter. The temple with the drums was used for the suspension of the large fish nets, no doubt common property.

The charm, made of a human *humerus* wrapped round with feathers, and worn hung round the neck, was taken in the hand and flourished about, dashed against the ground, and used