

POLYNESIA, MARQUESAS, AND SANDWICH ISLANDS.

POLYNESIA, as the name implies, is the region of "many islands," and has of late years attracted a large amount of attention. The term Polynesia may be applied to the whole of the numerous groups scattered over the Pacific, but is usually confined to those situated between the tropics, eastward from the Philippine islands and New Guinea to the American coast; this includes the Pelew, Ladrone, Caroline, Radick, Sandwich, and Gallapagos islands to the north, and the Eastern, Pitcairn, Marquesas, Society, Friendly, Queen Charlotte's, New Hebrides, New Caledonia, New Ireland, New Britain, New Hanover, Navigator's, Louisiade, Dangerous, Solomon's, and the Admiralty islands, to the south.

Polynesia is also interesting, from having been the scene of the most important discoveries of the Columbus of modern times—Captain Cook; at O-why-hee he fell, in a collision with the natives, thus prematurely closing a life which had been sedulously devoted to the advancement of science.

The Sandwich islands, of which O-why-hee, or Hawaii, forms a part, are ten in number. Eight of these are known to be inhabited. O-why-hee is the largest not only of the Sandwich islands but of the whole Polynesian group. It is exceedingly mountainous, and rises to an elevation of about 16,000 feet above the sea. The volcano of Kirauca is in ceaseless activity, and, indeed, the whole island is covered with lava and perforated by craters. Several circumstances have lately combined to give importance to these islands, and the aptitude of the people in acquiring the manners and customs of Europeans; their readiness to receive their friendly advances and to profit by a mutually good understanding, have given them a high position. As a station for steamers and other vessels, the islands present peculiar facilities; they are already frequented by the whalers in the Pacific, and in the town of Honolulu, the capital of the group, English churches, schools, boarding houses, &c. &c., have rapidly sprung up, and the population is very considerable. The harbour is capable of accommodating about seventy vessels of 500 or 600 tons.

The Marquesas islands, thirteen in number, do not present so many interesting features as those of the previously-mentioned group, and nothing can be more distinctly marked than the difference between the inhabitants. Physically, the people of the Marquesas are superior to most others of the Polynesian group, but in civilisation they are far behind those of either the Sandwich islands or of Tahiti. They have, apparently, no desire to adopt European customs, and still adhere to most of their old savage practices—indulging even, until very lately, in cannibalism. The Sandwich islanders, on the contrary, have particularly distinguished themselves in adopting English and American customs, and the dress of the better class of both sexes

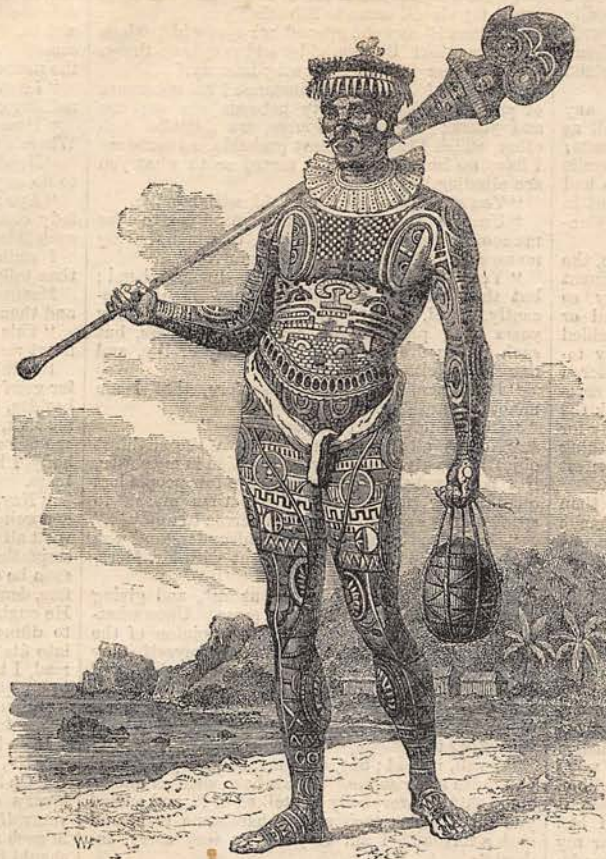
is thoroughly Anglo-American. When Polynesia first attracted the attention of Europeans, a strong likeness was observable in the habits of the people throughout the group. One

by increasing the organised matter which it contains. Experience teaches that a soil composed of several earths is more productive than that consisting of only one; and that a certain proportion of

universally prevalent. In many of the islands—those of the Marquesas in particular—the habits of the people are still those of barbarians. As the appearance of the aborigines of these islands was originally remarkable for its hideous nature, so these people still retain many of those practices which were more repulsive than those of the other islanders.

Here, however, the exertions of the Christian Missionary have made some improvement in the moral condition of the people. In the Sandwich islands the Christian religion is almost universally professed by the people. The Americans have done much to forward this desirable object. Much still remains to be done, and it is essential that the religious zeal of the European and American residents should keep pace with their mercantile enterprise.

The practice of tattooing is kept up with more tenacity than in any other part of Polynesia. The operation is performed in childhood, and the more extensively disfigured it is possible to render the face and body, so much superior is supposed to be the ingenuity of the operator and the appearance of the sufferer. The figure represented in our engraving is a faithful sketch of one of the warriors of the Marquesas islands.

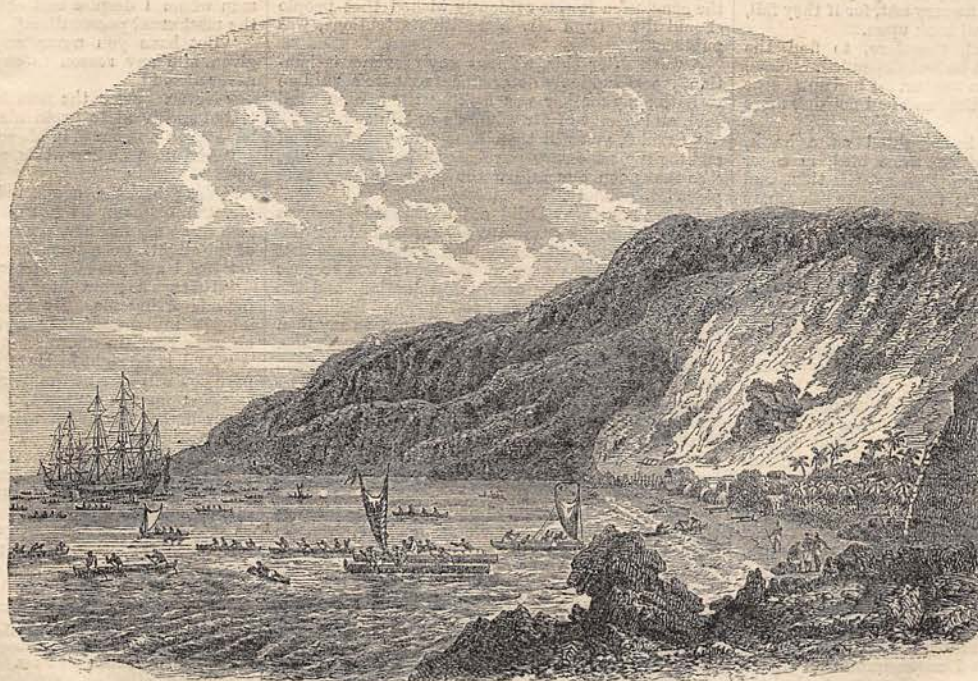


A NATIVE OF THE MARQUESAS ISLANDS.

Scientific Notes.

THE STEAM-PLOUGH.—Neither do good climate nor good soil necessarily insure good crops; nor do unfavourable conditions prevent their production by enlightened agricultural industry. Though the temperature of a climate cannot be changed, yet it may generally be improved by sheltering the ground from cold winds, and by diminishing the evaporation from the surface by a system of drainage that will relieve it from superfluous moisture. Deficiencies of the soil itself may be obviated; firstly, by improving its earthy constitution; and, secondly,

calcareous earth is essential to continuous fertility. Hence, soils not calcareous are improved by the addition of lime, and all others by mixing them with such as are of an opposite nature; by mingling sand with clay, and clay with lighter soils. The use of the soil is, firstly, to serve as a support for the roots; and, secondly, to furnish those mineral elements needed for the growth and maturity of the plants thence received. Wheat can only ripen in ground containing the silica, which imparts strength and erectness to the stem, through which its sustenance is drawn. Important as it undoubtedly is to supply a certain portion of organised matter to the soil, perhaps, hitherto, too much dependence has been placed upon manures, and too little upon the hidden elements of fertility contained in the ground itself, latent, and needing only judicious aid from man to



BAY OF KARAKUKOOA, O-WHY-HEE.

common language prevails amongst the inhabitants; and idolatry, cannibalism, polygamy, infanticide, with all the attendant horrors of savage life, were

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