

building is at once noticed. Dr. Inglis points out the fulfilment of the old curse of Canaan—"a servant of servants shall he be to his brethren"—in the marked subservience of these children of Ham to the descendants of Shem.

Twenty of the thirty islands inhabited have a population of 70,000, but before the New Hebrides became the traders' prey, it is calculated that they contained a population three times this number. The Papuans speak many languages, the Malays but one. Altogether there are twenty different languages spoken—a larger number than is used anywhere else in the world, in an equal area.

Though conventionally termed "naked," the natives all wear some covering if only a bunch of grass tied round the waist by a string. The men adorn their heads with shells, and spend so much energy on this part of their person that they have none left for the adornment of other parts. They twist their locks into as many as 700 whipcords, each of which ends in a bunch of curls, resembling a poodle's tail. It takes five years to complete this job. Some of the women wear a graceful petticoat while others of them wear two garments. Both sexes paint their faces and this adds considerably to their savage appearance. In their savage state the men are always fighting—*island against island, tribe against tribe, family against family.* They sometimes do away with their parents when they become old and infirm.

Their occupations are canoe-building, fishing, cultivation of their plantations, and the construction of implements and weapons.

The women are compelled to do most of the hard work. Many widows are strangled so that their spirits may accompany those of their husbands to the next world. Mothers often kill their children in order to rid themselves of the burden of carrying them while about their work. They display great skill in making their clothes, baskets, nets, etc.

Religion in the New Hebrides is a mixture of witchcraft, devil and ancestor worship. They have no beneficent deities. The chiefs are cruel men, and as the people have unlimited faith in their cantations, they are able to frighten to death all who fall under their displeasure.

The experience of witchcraft which Dr. Inglis had, inclined him to a more lenient criticism of our ancestors for their stringent treatment of witches. Mr. Thoms Hardy in one of his little tales, speaks of women's missionary societies as being one of "the various appliances for making happy savages miserable." Perhaps if he had visited these cannibal islands his opinion of the felicity of savages might have been modified. For them, the visible world is peopled with hostile men, and the invisible with hostile spirits. They live in fear and die in darkness.

Low as their condition was before the advent of the white man, it be-