

and to that is joined a large piece of cotton and silk, reaching to their ancles, and girded with a square handkerchief embroidered with gold or silver; and the whole is secured by a large silk girdle fringed, the ends of which hang down before; and within this girdle, on the left side, they keep their money and betel, and on the right side a knife. They set great value on this instrument, from its being their only weapon; for none but the king's officers and soldiers are permitted to wear any other. The rich have silk turbans on their heads, richly adorned, but those of the poor are made of cotton, and only ornamented with ribbons of various colours. The women are fairer than the men, and, in general, of a very agreeable disposition. They wear a coat of cotton, or silk, that reaches down to the ancles, over which they have a long robe of taffety, or fine cotton, that extends from the shoulders to the feet, and is fastened round the neck by two gilt buttons. Their hair, which is esteemed a great ornament, is black; and to obtain this, they keep their daughters heads shaved till they are eight or ten years of age, leaving only a little hair on their foreheads to distinguish them from the boys. They wash their heads and hair in water, to make the latter thick and long, and let it hang loose that the air may dry it; after which they perfume it with an odoriferous oil. When this is done, they stroke all the hair backwards from the forehead, and tie it behind in a knot, to which they add a large lock of a man's hair; and the whole is curiously ornamented with flowers of various sorts. The common people have houses built of cocoa-wood, and covered with leaves sewed one within another; but the superior sort build their houses of stone, which is taken from under the flats and rocks in the following manner: among other trees in this island, is one called candou, exceedingly soft, and, when dry, and sawed into planks, is much lighter than cork: the natives, who are excellent swimmers, dive under water, and, having fixed upon a stone for that purpose, they fasten a strong rope to it: after this, they take a plank of the candou-wood,