

world. Their shields were veritable wooden doors. Their dress consists of a narrow apron of antelope skin or finely made grass cloth. They wore knobs, cones, and patches of mud attached to their beards, back hair, and behind the ears. Others more ambitious, covered the entire head with a crown of mud.

The women, blessed with an abundance of hair, manufactured it with a stiffening of light cane into a bonnet-shaped head-dress, allowing the back hair to flow down to the waist in masses of ringlets. They seemed to do all the work of life, for at all hours they might be seen, with their large wicker baskets behind them,



THE SPIRIT ISLAND.

setting out for the rivers or creeks to catch fish, or returning with their fuel baskets strapped on across their foreheads.

Their villages consist of one or more broad streets, from 100 to 150 feet wide, flanked by low square huts, arranged in tolerably straight lines, and generally situated on swells of land to secure rapid drainage. At the end of one of these streets is the council and gossip house, overlooking the length of the avenue. In the centre is a platform of stamped clay, with a heavy tree-trunk sunk into it, and in the wood have been scooped out a number of troughs, so that several women may pound grain at once. It is a substitute for the village mill.

The houses are separated into two or more apartments, and on account of the compact nature of the clay and tamped floor,