

own part, however, I cannot say that I am too fond of either. The bread-fruit is as large as a good sized turnip, or nearly as large as one's head. The tree itself grows to a large size, so that they occasionally make canoes out of the trunk. It is a handsome tree, somewhat resembling our ash.

The *cocoa-nut palm* is a remarkable tree, a study in itself. It would require a long letter to do it justice. It is to the natives what the reindeer is to the Laplander—From its straight stem they can build their houses, and thatch them with its feathery leaves; of the fibrous net-work protecting its young branches, they can make clothes; its nut supplies them with drink, food, oil, material to make their fish nets, and *cinct* to tie their thatch and fences. It is one of the commonest and tallest trees in this region. These valuable nuts, in tens of thousands, are allowed year by year to drop and decay. The natives sell them to the traders at the rate of half-a-dozen for a tobacco pipe. There are many other nuts, as well as apple, bearing trees, but the fruit of them is not very much appreciated by Europeans, however highly esteemed by the natives.

The *sugar cane* grows most luxuriously. You may see the savage carrying his dinner over his shoulder in the shape of a stalk twelve or fifteen feet long, and as thick as your arm; and when he takes in his head to commence the operation of chewing, or rather tearing, he does so at such a rate, and after such a manner, as to cause any one who has had the misfortune to have the toothache to envy the freshness and firmness of his *incisors*, as well as the strength and power of his gums and his jaw-bones.

The *pepper, indigo, arrowroot, castor oil plants, &c.*, grow spontaneously. *Pine apples, oranges and cotton* have been introduced, and they all flourish exceedingly. Mr. Inglis, one of the older missionaries, planted a few orange seeds about twelve years ago, and now he has, to speak after native fashion, as many oranges as would fill the quadrangle of your college. At all events I wish one-half of your number were here to help us to consume them, for Mr. Inglis's injunction is not to spare the oranges but to spare ourselves.

ANIMALS.

There is a great scarcity of the larger sort of animals on these islands. With the exception of hogs and fowls, there is hardly any other useful for food to man. The pigs are plentiful on most of the islands, and are sold sufficiently cheap by the natives to the traders for tobacco, muskets, powder and shot, &c.

A few cattle and goats have been imported by the missionaries, which thrive very well, especially the latter. There is, how-

ever, no lack of insect life, such as fleas and flies, ants and cockroaches. Rats, too, are sufficiently numerous, and more than troublesome.

FISHES

Are pretty numerous, and the natives are pretty ingenious *fishers*, but neither in quantity nor in quality are they equal to our home fish. Shell-fish are to be had in great abundance and in great variety, but I dare say their shell will constitute their chief value in the eyes of Europeans. Turtles, whales and large sharks are occasionally caught.

FORESTS.

If you were to examine the tops of the mountains from the Firth of Clyde to Cape Wrath, I suspect you would find them composed of several feet of moss, and in that moss whole forests in decay. Here, on the other hand, the tops of the highest mountains are covered with magnificent forests in full vigour and bloom. The South Sea pine and mahogany, the iron and famous sandal-wood, the stately palm and the huge banian, grace these forests,—in short, one of the drawbacks here is the dense woods and no less dense and huge vegetation. Was the climate of the Old Hebrides once similar to that of the New? or has the forest there come to grief? might be a nice question for geologists to discuss, but for us meanwhile it will be more important, if not also more interesting, to consider the *genus* found on these isles of the sea.

THE RACE.

In most books that you are likely to read on the subject, you will be told that they are Papuans of the Papuan race; but what in all the world does that mean? that they are improved asses minus the tail? or that they form a sort of intermediate species between the higher kind of monkeys and Hottentots, that they have dark skins and white teeth, and are bountifully provided with hair and nails?

Looking at a naked painted savage sitting at a short distance, I confess he does not give one the most exalted notions of humanity, viewed even from his physical side, but even here he is deficient. Get him started to his feet, and let your observation be more accurate. Mark how erect he stands—his natural position too. Can a monkey accomplish that? Notice, too, how symmetrical and proportionate that form is. Are Messrs. Darwin, Page, Lyell and Co. themselves much ahead of him in this respect? His head may not be so large as that of Sir James Young Simpson and Chalmers, nor yet his forehead so broad and high as that of Dr. Candlish, Hugh Miller, and Sir William Hamilton; yet it is far from being ill-shaped, and I should say far