

sance of the use of fire-arms, cannot be reconciled to such an opinion.

The canoes of these people are commonly about four and twenty feet in length, and have the bottom, in general, formed of a single piece of wood; hollowed out to the thickness of an inch or more, and brought to a point at each end. The sides are composed of three boards, each about an inch thick, neatly fitted and lashed to the bottom. The extremities, both at head and stern, are a little elevated, and both are made sharp, somewhat resembling a wedge, but they flatten more abruptly, so that the two side boards join each other, side by side, for upwards of a foot. As they seldom exceed a foot and a half in breadth, those that go single (for they sometimes join them) have outriggers, which are shaped and fitted with more judgment than any we had before seen. They are rowed by paddles, such as we had generally observed at other islands; and some of them have a light triangular sail, extended to a mast and boom. The ropes which they use for their boats, and the smaller cords for their fishing tackle, are strong and neatly made.

They are by no means novices in the art of agriculture. The vale ground is one continued plantation of *taro*, and some other articles, which have all the appearance of being carefully attended to. The potatoe fields, and spots of sugar cane, or plantains, on the higher grounds, are planted with great regularity: but neither these, nor the others, are enclosed with any fence, unless we consider the ditches on the low grounds as such; which, it is more probable, are designed to convey water to the *taro*.

The short and imperfect intercourse we had with the natives did not enable us to form any accurate judgment of the form of government established amongst them; but, from the general similarity of customs, and particularly from what we observed of honour paid to their chiefs, it seems reasonable to imagine, that it is of the same nature with that which prevails in all the islands we have hitherto visited; and, in all probability, their wars are equally frequent. This, indeed, might be inferred, from the number of weapons we found in their possession, and from the excellent order in which they kept them. But we had proof of the fact from their own confession; and as we were informed, these wars are carried on between the different districts of their own island, as well as between it and the neighbouring inhabitants of the isles of Oneechow and Oreehou. We scarcely need assign any other cause besides this, to account for the appearance before mentioned, of their population not being proportioned to the extent of their ground that is capable of cultivation.

Besides their spears, formed of a fine brownish wood, beautifully polished, some of which are barbed at one end, and flattened to a point at the other, they have a kind of weapon which we had never met with before: it somewhat resembles a dagger, and is in general about eighteen inches in length; sharpened at