

affinity to the Araucanians. "One description," says Pritchard, "is applicable to both nations. Their heads are proportionably large; their faces round, with projecting cheek-bones, large mouths, thick lips, short flattened noses, with wide nostrils; their eyes are horizontally placed, and not inclined; otherwise their countenance would approximate greatly to that of the nomadic Tartars: they have little beard; their foreheads are narrow, and falling back; their chins broad and short."

Among the most interesting accounts of these Indians is that given by Captain Fitzroy, in the "Narrative of the Voyages of the Adventure and the Beagle." Lieutenant Charles Wilkes, commander of the United States' exploring expedition, has also very graphically described the appearance and peculiarities of the people and country.

Fitzroy estimates the whole population at about three thousand adults. They are divided into five different tribes or nations, viz: the Yacanas, Tekeenicas, Alikhoolip, Pecherais, and Inemuls. The name of Pecherais was bestowed by Bougainville (as descriptive of their mode of subsistence) upon those coast Indians who have been considered as belonging to the Araucanian family. The Yacanas appear to be the same with the neighboring Patagonians.

The separate tribes differ considerably in their physical development, but the generality of these islanders present a wretched and miserable aspect of deformity. Their withered and emaciated limbs are in strong contrast to the breadth of the chest and the size of the abdomen, and the squatting position always assumed by them when at rest, causes the skin of the knee-joint to become stretched and loose: when standing, it hangs in unsightly folds. Their eyes are almost universally inflamed and sore from the effects of the smoke in their wigwams. There are few races upon the globe who bear so strongly the marks of want and destitution.