

stone, and surrounded with hurdles, to prevent its being trodden upon.

PAPUA, OR NEW GUINEA.

THE term *Papua* signifies *black*, and seems to have been applied to this country on account of the blackness of its inhabitants. The Spaniards gave it the name of New Guinea, from the resemblance of the natives to those of the Guinea coast, in Africa: a closer examination, however, has since shown them to be physically distinct.

The Papuas, who are scattered over all the eastern isles, are of low stature, never exceeding five feet in height, and generally of slender make. Their skin is not jet black, like that of the African negro, but of a sooty colour. Their woolly hair grows in small tufts; their noses rise more from the face than in native Africans; and their mouths project so much, that it has been said "the chin forms no part of the face." Most of these people are destitute of houses or clothing, and subsist on the precarious spoils of the chase, or the spontaneous productions of the forests. They are fond of glass and porcelain beads of the gayest colors, which both sexes wear about the wrists, and the females also suspend them from the left ear. As among all savages, the women lead a most laborious life; every species of toil which their subsistence requires falling upon them. The

tribes in the interior practise some kind of cultivation, as they generally supply those on the coast with vegetable products, in exchange for axes, knives, and other kinds of coarse cutlery, which the latter purchase of the Malays and Chinese, in exchange for slaves, ambergris, and other products of the country, including the beautiful bird of paradise. One of the native tribes, called *Horaforas*, who dwell in the interior, are said to live in the trees, which they ascend by means of notches cut in the bark. On the north-west coast, the natives erect huts on a sort of stage over the sea. The houses have no chimneys; and as the several families prepare their own food, the smoke issues through the chinks of the roof, making the whole building appear as if on fire. The canoes are always drawn up on the platform, ready to be launched, when occasion may require. A mat or two, with a few earthen pots, constitute nearly the whole of their domestic utensils.

NEW BRITAIN, NEW IRELAND, &c.

THESE islands are inhabited by a race of blacks, with woolly heads, who have always manifested a decided hostility to foreign navigators, and are armed with spears headed with flint. They have not the flat noses and thick lips of the African negroes; and they mark their faces with

white stripes, and cover their hair and beards with white powder.

ADMIRALTY ISLANDS.

THIS group is the residence of a people somewhat more advanced towards civilization than those just spoken of. They are not so black as the inhabitants of New Britain and New Ireland; and their countenances are more *European*; yet they have crisped hair. They smear their heads with a mixture of oil and red ochre, and paint their bodies.

Neither of these groupes have been much visited by Europeans.

ARSACIDES, OR SOLOMON'S ISLANDS.

THIS group is inhabited by more than one race of men. Some of the natives are quite black, with short woolly hair; others are copper-coloured, with black hair, which they cut short and powder with lime. Some of them also tattoo their bodies, and paint a white line over their eyebrows. They wear both ear and nose rings; and have no other clothing than a scanty girdle about their waists. They are warlike; but have manifested a treacherous disposition in their intercourse with Europeans.

NEW HEBRIDES.

THESE islands are inhabited by different races of people, some well shaped, with agreeable features; others quite the reverse. Those of Tierra del Espiritu Santo, the largest of the islands, are described by the Spaniards as corpulent and strong, cleanly, cheerful, sensible, and grateful. Their houses are built of wood, and thatched. They weave nets, and make earthen vessels; have plantations inclosed with palisades; construct vessels, which they navigate to distant countries; and have places appropriated for burying the dead. Many aged people in good health were seen.

The natives of Tanna, another of these islands, are described by Captain Cook as having dark curly hair, but not black, without anything of the negro character in their features, which are regular and agreeable. They are slender and active, civil, hospitable, and kind; but their jealousy of their visitors seeing the interior of the island, could only be surpassed in China and Japan. They have plantations of sugar-canes, yams, plantains, bread-fruit trees, &c. regularly laid out and fenced; and they breed pigs and poultry. Their principal beverage is the milk of the cocoa-nut, mixed with water.

Of the inhabitants of Mallicolo, another of these islands, which Captain Cook visited, he speaks in very different

terms; he calls them an "ape-like nation;" and considers them the most ugly, ill-proportioned people he ever met with, and differing from all others. Their houses are low, and covered with palm thatch.

NEW CALEDONIA.

THE inhabitants of this large island are of the same complexion with those of Tanna, above described. Both sexes have good features and agreeable countenances; and some of the men are upwards of six feet in height; but the highlanders appear meagre and famished. The disposition of these people is generally dull and silent, and they seldom manifest that curiosity which is usually visible among savages; yet they are affable and honest. Their language is harsh and guttural. Neither civil nor religious authority was observed among them by Captain Cook; but they seemed to enjoy a kind of rude independence.

Scarcity of food appears to be one of the greatest evils which these people have to contend with; and the want of provisions is considered by them as a sufficient cause for their going to war, that they may devour the bodies of their slaughtered enemies.

NEW ZEALAND.

THE natives here are a stout, muscular, and active race, excelling the other inhabitants of the Australasian islands in manual dexterity. They are described as being mild, gentle, and affectionate towards their friends, but ferocious and implacable towards their foes. They are divided into numerous small societies, which are almost constantly at war with each other; they give no quarter, and feast upon their enemies who are slain in battle.

A species of feudal government prevails in this country; three orders rise in gradation above the *cookees*, or common people, who are kept in a complete state of vassalage. The power of the priesthood is exerted in a species of interdict called *taboo*, a term of very diversified, as well as extensive signification, and by which every circumstance of the political and moral economy of the people is regulated.

The countenances of the New Zealanders are intelligent and impressive; they are of an olive complexion; and when freed from the filth with which they are usually covered, not much darker than Spaniards.

The common covering of both sexes is a mat, made of strong bladed grass, and so thickly woven as not only to prove an excellent defence against the heat of the sun, but also to keep out long continued rain. This thatch, for

such it really is, reaches from the neck to the middle of the thigh; so that when the wearer squats down, he very much resembles a large beehive surmounted with a human head. The men bind their hair at the top of the head; but the women crop their's; both sexes anoint it with oil, and smear their bodies with red ochre. The men, and particularly the chiefs, tattoo their faces and some parts of their bodies; the marks on the face are generally in spiral lines, and frequently give a horrible appearance to the countenance. The females wear rings in their ears, and bracelets of cloth, feathers, wood, bone, teeth, or shells; and have more ornaments on their heads than the men.

The New Zealander lives at his ease, unrestricted by rules, and reckless of the value of time. If he has any work in hand, he is indifferent as to the period of its completion; if he is hungry, and has food, he eats to excess; when he feels himself drowsy, he stretches himself on the ground, and sleeps; or, if prompted by a flow of animal spirits, he joins in the dance; but all without any fixed hours to regulate his proceedings.

When a New Zealander falls sick, he is *tabooed* by an areekee, or priest; that is, all intercourse and assistance are interdicted, from a belief that the *Etua*, or Deity, has resolved to destroy him, and for that purpose made a lodgment in his stomach, to prey upon his entrails. To attempt to dislodge this *Etua*, they say, would be the height of im-

piety: the unhappy victim is, therefore, consigned to death; and if the disease be lingering, he is starved; for, so strict is the interdict, if any one should give the sufferer a morsel of food, or a drop of water, he would be put to death for his temerity.

In the year 1815, some Christian Missionaries were sent from England to the New Zealanders, and have since been followed by others, accompanied by some mechanics, with the view of teaching the natives the arts of civil life, as well as the blessings of religion.

AUSTRALIA.

SOUTH of the Moluccas and Papua, is an island, the largest on the globe, to which the Dutch, who first discovered it, gave the name of *New Holland*; but modern geographers have bestowed upon it that of *Australia*. The eastern side, which belongs to Great Britain, is denominated *New South Wales*. In the last-named district, the English have a valuable and thriving colony, formed, in the first instance, by exiled felons; but of late years, the settlement has been increased and improved by a number of voluntary emigrants from the parent state.

The aborigines of this country, who dwell in the vicinity of the European settlements, are still in a state of nature; and although nearly fifty years have elapsed since their first

intercourse with the British colonists, they are so far from having benefited by the acquaintance, that men and women are to be seen every day in the streets of the colonial towns, in a complete state of nudity. This is the more surprising, as they are very ingenious, and possessed of accurate observation, and a quick perception. In their persons, they are more diminutive and slighter made than Europeans; in general, they cannot be said to be well shaped, yet instances of absolute deformity are very rare among them. Their colour is not in all cases the same; some are nearly as black as the African negro; others are of the copper, or Malay hue. Their hair is generally black, but sometimes of a reddish cast. In common with all other nations, these people endeavour to heighten their personal attractions by adventitious embellishments. They cannot, indeed, do this by the finery of clothing, for they are naked; but they thrust a stick, or a bone, through the septum of the nose, decorate their hair with shark's teeth, and scarify their bodies. Both sexes besmear their bodies with different colours; but red and white are most in use. Those who live on the sea coast depend on fish for their subsistence. Their substitute for bread is a species of fern, which, being roasted, and pounded between two stones, is mixed with fish, and constitutes the chief part of their food. Those who dwell in the woods, maintain a half-famished life by the chase, or by ensnaring the beasts of the forests. Their

habitations are of the rudest construction; and at the entrance, rather within than without, the fire is made; so that the interior is always smoke-dried and filthy.

The New Hollanders are supposed to acknowledge the existence of a Supreme Power; and their dread of spirits indicates their belief in a future state. They believe that particular aspects of the heavenly bodies indicate good or evil consequences to themselves or friends. And when they see the lightning glare, and hear the thunder roll, they rush out and deprecate destruction, but do not attempt to flee. They have a dance and song appropriated to such awful occasions, consisting of wild and uncouth noises and gestures.

Intrepidity is a marked feature in their character; but they are also volatile, fickle, and passionate. They are sudden in quarrel, yet not implacable in their desire of revenge. When a person is slain, either in a pitched battle, or in one of those hasty quarrels which frequently arise among them, the survivor is obliged to stand on his defence, for a certain number of spears to be thrown at him by the friends or relatives of the deceased: if he escape alive, the matter ends; but should he be killed, his antagonist must undergo a similar ordeal. Like most other savages, their sight and hearing are so acute, that they can distinguish objects which would totally escape an European. In their conflicts with each other, they use spears and shields; the

former are made of the bullrush, and pointed with hard wood; the latter are only of bark; and the spears are thrown with such force, as frequently to pierce them. Dexterity in throwing and parrying the spear is considered the highest acquirement; and if a spear drop from them, when engaged in a contest, they do not stoop to pick it up, but hook it between their toes, and lift it till it meet the hand; thus the eye is never diverted from the foe.

Their canoes, composed of the bark of trees, tied together in small splinters, are miserable vehicles, usually half filled with water; and nothing but the natural buoyancy of the materials could prevent them from sinking. In this crazy kind of craft, a whole family may frequently be seen fishing: a fire of embers is usually kept in the middle of the canoe, and the fish they catch, after being warmed sufficiently for the scales to be rubbed off, is devoured as soon as taken.

In the late survey of the country westward of the British settlements, a people were found, who spoke a different language from those with whom the colonists had been previously acquainted, and were clothed in kangaroo skins, neatly sewn together with the sinews of the emu. The fur was worn inwards, and the outside was ingeniously marked with various devices, among which the cross was most prominent. Their subsistence was chiefly derived from the animals of the forests and the fish of the rivers; and they

seemed to manifest less of the savage disposition that distinguishes the natives near the eastern shore.

TASMANIA.

SOUTH of New Holland is the smaller island, till lately called *Van Diemen's Land*, but now *Tasmania*, on which the British have a settlement. The natives are described as more ferocious and uncivilized than those of the larger island. They subsist entirely by hunting; and have no knowledge whatever of the art of fishing. They have no canoes, and when they want to cross a piece of water, they construct a rude temporary raft for the purpose. Their arms and hunting implements also indicate an inferior degree of information. Their spears are composed of heavy wood, and they neither throw them so far nor so dexterously.

