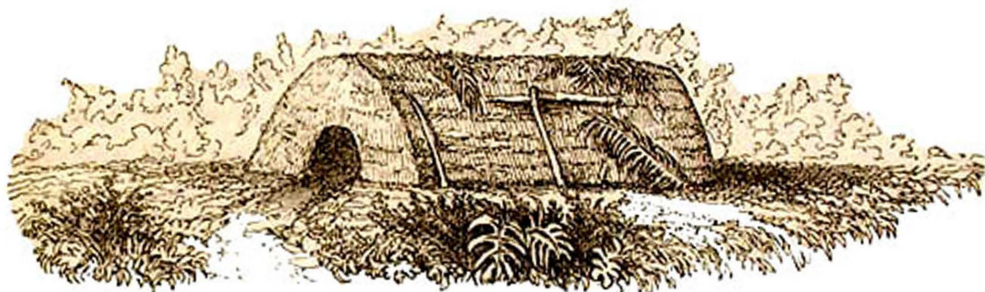


absence of wounded or scarred individuals, I should conclude they lived in peace. They, however, gave their neighbours on the small island to the west (which they called Ootoho), a very bad name. Water in small quantities is to be had on the eastern section of the island, and a little hiche-de-mar might be taken on the reefs. A small rat was very troublesome to the natives. This island has some Cocoa-nut, Bread-fruit, and Pandanus trees; the *Pisonia*, *Tournefortia*, and the shrubs that are common to the low islands, also grow upon it.

The huts of the natives scarcely deserve the name; they are merely four or five poles, with both ends stuck in the ground, forming an arch on which strips are tied, and over these the leaves of the cocoa-nut, mats, and grass, are laid. They are about six or eight feet long, four feet high, and about five feet wide, barely sufficient to keep out the sun, and entirely useless as a protection from rain.



NATIVE HUT.

Their utensils are small, and seemed ill adapted to their use. Their baskets were suspended from the tops of their huts and from trees. The natives seemed destitute of tapa. No anchorage was found at this island.

At nightfall the squadron was put under short sail, supposing that the current by the morning would take us to the leeward near Ootoho, a distance of ten miles. It lies west-northwest of Wytoohee, distant twelve and one-third miles, and is distinctly seen from it, like a round knoll. This appearance is owing to the trees upon it, for the land is as low as coral islands usually are. We found by the morning, that the current had been about one mile per hour to the west, and therefore much stronger than I anticipated; we were in consequence some distance to leeward of the island. With the light wind, I knew the ship could not reach it before the afternoon. I immediately sent the naturalists on board the tender *Flying-Fish*, and gave Lieutenant Pinckney orders to endeavour to land them, and to pass around the island and survey it; neither of which he succeeded in doing. The survey was finally completed by the boats of the *Vincennes* and *Peacock*. The naturalists tried to effect a landing, but were opposed