

style in the garden of Eden. These primitive fashions, however, are not peculiar to the group, being in vogue also in other parts of the Pacific.

As a set-off against the geographical ignorance of these islanders, we may state that Captain Hudson and the best map-makers of the age knew nothing of the existence of Bowditch Island until he discovered it; and from him comes the name it bears, given in honour of the celebrated author of "Bowditch's Navigator" as well as of the translation of Laplace's "*Mécanique Céleste*."

The Gilbert Group affords an example of a less isolated coral-island people. A beautiful view representing a part of the village of Utiroa, on Drummond's Island, is contained in the same volume of Wilkes's Narrative. The public house of the island is even larger than that on Bowditch Island, measuring one hundred and twenty feet in length, forty-five feet in width, and forty in height to the ridge-pole. This island, unlike the Duke of York's, was densely peopled, and, owing apparently to the scant supply of fish and vegetables thus occasioned, many of the natives were afflicted with leprosy, and also had bad teeth, both circumstances unusual for the Pacific. Lean in body and savage in look and gesture, they strangely contrasted with their fat, jolly kinsmen on some of the more northern islands of the same group. An old, fat chief who came from one of these islands to the ship's side in his canoe was actually too large to have reached the deck except by the use of a tackle. It was evident that infanticide—a necessity according to their system of political economy—was more thoroughly practised than on Drummond's Island, and that the population was thus kept from becoming uncomfortably numerous. The obesity was probably owing to their having nothing to do, and plenty, in the vegetable way, to eat; for these somewhat elevated equatorial islands, as elsewhere observed, are unusually productive for atolls,—just the place for a voluptuous barbarian.

The people on Drummond's Island were great thieves, and knew the pleasures of a cannibal feast. Without metals, or