

any kind of hard stone, they make, out of the teeth of the sharks caught about the reefs, a sharp, jagged edging for long knives, swords, and spears; and the women, jealous of one another, sometimes, as Mr. Hale says, carry about with them for months a small weapon of shark's teeth concealed under their dress, watching for an opportunity to use it; and desperate fights sometimes take place. The same author mentions also some good points in them: observing that the women are, for the most part, better treated than is common among uncivilized people; that the men do the hard out-door work, while the women clear and weed the ground, and attend to the domestic duties that naturally fall to them. "Custom also requires that when a man meets a female he shall pay her the same mark of respect that is rendered to a chief, by turning aside to let her pass,"—a rule that probably does not always hold in practice. He adds: "The word *manda* signifies among the Gilbert Islanders a man thoroughly accomplished in all their knowledge and arts, and versed in every noble exercise; a good dancer, an able warrior, one who has seen life at home and abroad, and enjoyed its highest excitements and delights—in short, a complete man of the world. In their estimation this is the proudest character to which any person can attain; and such a one is fully prepared to enter, at his death, on the highest enjoyments of their elysium."

Thus much for the human productions of coral islands.

Although the vegetation of coral islands has the luxuriance that characterizes more favoured tropical lands, the number of species of land plants is small. When Gray's "Botany of the Paumotus" shall appear, it will contain descriptions of only twenty-eight or thirty species. The most common kinds are the following:—

*Portulacca oleracea L.* (*lutea* of *Solander*).

*Triumfetta procumbens Forst.*

*Tournefortia argentea L.*

*Scævola Konigii Vahl.*

*Ipomæa longiflora R. Br.*

*Lepidium piscidium Forst.*

*Pemphis acidula Forst.*

*Pandanus odoratissimus L. J.*

*Pisonia grandis Parkinson.*

*Morinda citrifolia L.*

*Guettarda speciosa L.*