

like arrows. I spent some time amongst them, and gave them a few trifling presents, but could obtain little information; for their intellectual capacities appeared very low, and they showed but little interest or curiosity in the visits that had been paid them. Their food usually consists of a fruit resembling a large yellow plum, mealy and insipid, and a species of mangrove. At low water the women generally disperse in search of shell-fish on the mud flats, or amongst the mangrove swamps; and the men occasionally fish either with the spear or hook and line.

The dull and sombre vegetation of Australia spreads all over Cape York and the immediate adjacent islands. Wide forests of large but ragged-stemmed gum-trees, with their almost leafless and quite shadeless branches, are the principal characteristics of this vegetation; here and there are gullies with jungles of more umbrageous foliage, and a few ragged stunted palms. Across the Straits, on its northern shore, the contrast is very great, for travellers tell us not a gum-tree is to be seen, but that the woods are close and lofty, and afford the deepest and most refreshing shade, and are often matted into impenetrable thickets by creepers and undergrowth, and adorned with varied foliage, such as cocoa-nut, plantain, bamboo, and other plants, not only useful but also beautiful.

Birds were plentiful, and very interesting, and I