

there was a general clapping of hands; but when the lower order of chiefs were served, this was not observed, and in lieu of it, there was a general exclamation of "Sa madaa," (it is empty.) After ava the king rinses his mouth, lights his cigar or pipe, and lolls on his mat. It was laughable to see the king's barber take his ava; as he is not allowed to touch any thing with his hands, it becomes necessary that the cup shall be held for him by another person, who also feeds him. One of the officers gave him a cigar, which was lighted and put in his mouth, and when he wished to remove it, he did it in a very ingenious manner by twisting a small twig around it.

The king made many inquiries, spoke of his riches, his patent rifle, and the feast he intended to give; but he wanted a double-barrelled gun. He likewise spoke of being desirous of sending his two little girls (the only children he has) to the missionary school, but their attendants (they have male nurses) were such thieves they would steal every thing they could lay their hands on from the missionaries, and in this way would give him a great deal of trouble. Captain Hudson induced him to promise to build the missionaries comfortable houses, as soon as the weather became good and he had received his tribute from Kantavu. He spoke kindly of the missionaries, and seemed well satisfied that their object was to do himself and his people good. The king ordered his household to chaunt a kind of song, for the amusement of his guests, the subject of which was the adventures of a chief on a voyage, after leaving his wife, and her resolution to destroy herself in consequence of his failing to return.

About nine o'clock the fireworks were exhibited. When the first rocket was sent off, the natives exhibited fear and excitement; the king seized Captain Hudson by the hand and trembled like a leaf. When the rockets burst, and displayed their many stars, they all seemed electrified. The effect produced by the blue-lights on the dark groups of naked figures, amazed and bewildered as they were, was quite striking, particularly as the spectacle was accompanied by the uncouth sounds of many conchs, and by the yell of the savages, to drive away the spirits they supposed to be let loose and flying in the air. Paddy Connel, alias Berry, told them that nothing but the unwillingness we had to do them injury prevented us from sending them to Ambau, ten miles distant, and he said there was no doubt that they believed that it could be done. This exhibition excited the wonder and amazement of all the country round, and induced them to believe that these flying spirits were collected for the destruction of Rewa, and that they themselves would be the next to suffer.

After the fireworks they all retired, Captain Hudson taking up his