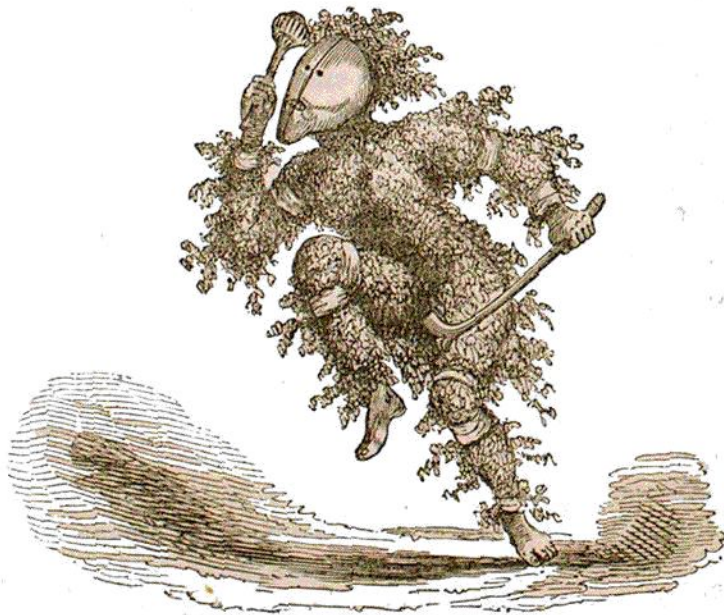


escape from shipwreck, being nearly on the reef, in a dark night, before it was discovered. Any other vessel of the squadron but the Flying-Fish would probably have been lost; but her admirable qualities were well proved in the exploration of this dangerous and unknown group.

Tui Levuka had prepared an exhibition of the native club-dance, which we went on shore, by invitation, on the 24th, to witness. For this purpose, all the chiefs and people of the neighbouring town, under his authority were called upon to assist, and it required three or four days to complete the arrangements. As the day drew near, the bustle of preparation increased, and, previous to our landing, many people were seen running to and fro, to complete the arrangements. We were shown the way to the mbure, the platform or terrace of which, overlooking the whole scene, was assigned to us. The street, if so I may call it, widened and formed a square at the mbure, both sides being enclosed by stone walls; in front, at about thirty paces distance, were seated about one hundred men and boys: these we afterwards ascertained were the musicians. The stone walls in the vicinity were crowded by numbers of natives of both sexes, while beyond them an open space was apparently reserved, and surrounded by numbers of spectators.



FEEJEE CLOWN.

We stood in expectation of the opening of the entertainment, and were amused to observe the anxiety manifested by the natives, both old and young. Suddenly we heard shouts of loud laughter in the