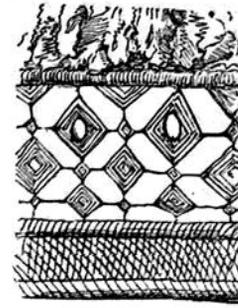


island not only protects the harbour from the north wind, but adds much to its beauty by its high and luxuriant appearance. It is a little over a mile in length. It appears to have been for a long time a burial-place for both chiefs and common people. The graves are scattered in groups along the shore, those of the chiefs being apart from the rest, and distinguished by having small houses built over them, from two to six feet high. The fronts of these houses were of a kind of lattice-work, formed of braided sennit, of which the cut will give an



FRONT OF HOUSE.

idea. These houses were entirely vacant. Before some of them spears or poles were crossed in the form of an X; before others a stick was planted in the ground, with its top tied around with sennit; near others were long pieces of tapa, suspended from poles, with clubs, spears, and a canoe, laid beside them. The natives said that the deposit of these articles was (*soro soro ni kai viti*) a religious ceremony.

The graves of the common people (*kai-si*) had merely stones laid over them. On the natives who accompanied Messrs. Hale and Agate being told that they had permission to take a skeleton, which they call "*kalou mate*," they showed no reluctance whatever to assist, and took them to a grave where they said two Ambau men were buried, who had died from eating poisoned fish. Though the grave was not deep, some difficulty was experienced in removing the gravel and stones with which the bodies were covered. The natives were playing and making sport while at their work, and seemed at a loss to know at which end to look for the head. There was no covering found on the bodies, which had been laid naked in the grave; the bones were clear of flesh and whole, but were brittle and decayed.

On the 27th, they had a visit from the king's son, who came in full costume, with his long seavo pendent both from before and behind, and a full turban. His visit was for the purpose of obtaining a small pennant that was making for his canoe, consisting of a yard or two of red bunting with a white star in it. With this he went off in great glee. He was on his way to Somu-somu, to invite the chiefs of that place to the feast about to be given at Muthuata.

Captain Hudson was now informed that the messengers had returned without the murderers. The report they brought back was that they had fled into the mountains, and joined the chiefs there for protection, at the time the Peacock passed the town. This was not credited, and the king was desired to make another attempt, which he