

fruit of the mangrove (*Rhizophora*), which the women were seen gathering. Tui Mbua had forewarned his guests that he had no luxuries to give them.

They had a comfortable mbure, however, to sleep in, and supped upon yams. The labour of transporting all the water and provisions up the ascent falls upon the women.

In the town of Tui Mbua, were the two Feejee chiefs of Sualib Bay whom I had freed; they proved to be the friends and allies of the old king, and at their request they were landed to pay him a visit, and thence to proceed homeward.

In the evening they were entertained with a Feejee dance by the men, which consisted in movements of the body, arms, legs, and head, not ungraceful. The dancers had evidently practised a great deal together. The glowing light of the bamboo torches on their dark skins and fine forms, decked in their pure white turbans (*sala*), with the crowd gathered around, produced a fine effect. A few girls were also induced to dance, but they did not do so well, for want of practice.

With the assistance of David Whippy, they got rid of the old king almost by force, as he was inclined to pass the night in their company. Tui Mbua has always been a great friend of the whites. They returned on board the next day.

At Lecumba Point, where many of the natives were frequently gathered, the ambati or priest was induced to shake as if the spirit was in him. He always, however, declined doing so unless they were alone, for fear he should lose his influence with his countrymen. His first operation was to put every muscle in full tension, clenching his fists and placing his feet apart. This done, he would begin to shake with great violence, the muscles of his legs becoming so much excited, that involuntary motions continued for some time afterwards. A small present was usually made him for these exertions.

Captain Hudson, as has been seen, had proceeded with the Peacock to Muthuata. As soon as he arrived at that place, he went on shore to visit the king, and demanded of him Hugh M'Bride, a deserter from one of the surveying boats. He was the second man who had attempted to leave the squadron for the purpose of taking up his abode among these cannibals.

The king disclaimed all knowledge of his desertion, and promised to have him sought after. The king's house was found surrounded by his warriors and people, armed, who all appeared much agitated and alarmed at the second visit of the ship. Every thing was, however, done that could be to quiet his fears, but not with much success.