

fourth is plain. They always beat two strips of tapa into one, for the purpose of strengthening its fibres, and during this operation it is diminished one-fourth in length. The bark is always kept moist by water, which unites with the gluten. Although it contracts in length, a piece of two inches wide is not unfrequently beaten out to eighteen inches in width. They find no difficulty in joining the pieces together, for the sap is sufficiently tenacious for that purpose, and the junction is often so neatly done as to escape detection. After the tapa is made, it is bleached in the sun, as we are in the habit of doing with linen; and that which they desire to have figured, undergoes the following process, called kesukesu. Strips of bamboo, of the size of the little finger, are fastened on a board; on these the tapa is laid, and rubbed over with a sort of dye, or juice, from the fruit of the laudi, which only adheres to the tapa where it touches the bamboo; it is then washed with a thin solution of arrow-root, which gives it a kind of glazing. Tapa-making is the work of women, who are generally employed at it early in the morning, and a woman can make ten fathoms of cloth a day. The tapa is also printed after the manner which has been described in treating of the Samoan Group.



WOMAN BRAIDING.

The bark of the *Hibiscus tiliaceus* is much used in braiding bands, &c.; for this purpose it is first steeped in water, to make it soft and pliable; of it the women make their liku, which is a band beautifully braided, about three inches wide, where the ends of the bark project so as to form a fringe, which is dyed red or black. This is the only article the women wear to cover their nakedness. The band is so plaited as to be a little elastic, by which means only it is kept on. The manner of braiding it is by affixing it to the great toe of the right foot.

The *Pandanus odoratissimus* furnishes the materials for their mats,