

called baya-baya; they are woven in the same manner as at the other islands, only they appear stronger, more firmly made, and more suitable for the purpose to which they are applied,—that of covering the floors.

A rattan (*Flagellaria*) is used for making baskets; for this purpose the stem is split, and the baskets are very neatly made. It is also used as ties for the fastening of houses.

The palm-tree (*Caryota*) is used for rafters in building; its straight stems, with its hard, durable, and tough qualities, render it well adapted to this purpose. The stems of the tree-fern are used for door-posts.

The bamboo is here used for vessels to contain water, and also for rafts, which the natives use in taking fish. Another use it is put to, is for torches to light them in their evening dances. These, with the addition of cocoa-nut oil, give a good light. In some places it forms the rafters of houses, but its growth is confined to a few districts.

The iron-wood (*Casuarina indica*) is preferred for making spears and clubs; it is a fine-grained and very heavy wood.

The old pendent roots of the mangrove are used for their bows, which are very tough and elastic.

A species of pine, called by the natives dackui, resembling the Kaurie pine of New Zealand, is found on several of the islands, more particularly on Vitilevu and Kantavu. One of these was seen growing near Levuka, that measured five feet in diameter.

The yase, or sandalwood, is now almost entirely destroyed, but our botanists succeeded in getting a few small specimens in the neighbourhood of Sandalwood Bay. The natives grate it on the mushroom coral, (*Fungia*), and use it for scenting their oil.

The soil of the islands consists of a deep loam, of a yellowish colour, with a large portion of decayed vegetable matter; combined as this is with a fine climate, and abundance of water, it is no wonder that all the native plants, as well as those introduced, should grow with luxuriance, and be prolific. To give a better idea of the rapidity of the vegetation, Mr. Brackenridge, our horticulturist, gave me the following memoranda of the garden which he planted.

Turnips, radish, and mustard seed, after being sown twenty-four hours, the cotyledon leaves were above the surface. Melons, cucumbers, and pumpkins, sprung up in three days; beans and peas made their appearance in four. In four weeks from the time of planting, radishes and lettuce were fit for use, and in five weeks, marrowfat peas. Several kinds of beets, carrots, leeks, three kinds of pole with