

occurred a few years before, when it became necessary for the natives to have recourse to the purslane, which is not considered by them as very unpalatable food.

These people have, from the little time occupied in cultivating their vegetable productions, a great deal of leisure; consequently, as would naturally be expected, amusements are sought for, and occupy a great part of their time: their festivals and dances are even looked upon as claiming priority to their warlike expeditions, and for these great preparations are always made some days previously. Their greatest festivities take place at the time of full moon, or a few days after it, when the people of one town usually invite those of another, both men and women, to what may be termed a dancing and singing match. On the day appointed, the guests arrive in their canoes, and proceed to the mariapa, where they occupy that portion of it on the side whence they came; the townspeople seat themselves opposite to them. The food which the strangers bring with them is laid in the middle, and as much more is added to it by their hosts, all of which is shared out by the guests among themselves. The dancing now begins, the guests making the first display of their agility, and when they have finished, the people of the town follow. A warm rivalry is thus kept up till evening, when the dancing gives place to singing, each taking up the measure in his turn. This is kept up until midnight, when the townspeople retire, leaving their guests to sleep in the mariapa. These festivities last for three days, after which the visitors depart.

The men, during this period, clothe themselves in mats from the waist downwards. Some load the waist with heavy strings of beads; others adorn the neck with rows of shells, and sometimes with one or two large whale's teeth, while others again have small rows of the latter across the back. Almost all wear a great many human teeth on the arms and around the neck: these are taken from their slain enemies; for, after killing a man, the first object with them is to knock out his teeth, for the purpose of obtaining them for ornaments. Through the lobes of their ears they pass long strips of yellow leaves, which hang down on their shoulders. They also besmear the face and body with cocoanut-oil, and some daub each cheek with fine white sand, and blacken their eyebrows and beards with charcoal. The hair is oiled and combed out with a pointed stick, and stands out from the head, forming an ornament which they esteem as very becoming. The women wear their usual dress and a few ornaments, but about the decorations of their persons they are very attentive and scrupulous.