

of similar character were hung round their neck and in their ears, which in some cases were dragged down to such an extent that the lower tips of the lobes were within a few inches of resting on their shoulders. The septum of the nose was pierced, and from it was suspended a number of teeth of the dog, or cuscus, strung on a fibre (hanging in front of their mouth), or a long piece of bone was reeved through from side to side. Human arm-bones, covered with feathers, &c., of the cassowary, hung down their backs. They were in most cases painted over the body, with pigments probably made from pounded charcoal, mixed with cocoa-nut oil, or lime made from burnt shell.

The particular vanity of these people, especially the men, was their hair, which was usually frizzled up into mop-like shape, or tied in some fantastic style on the top of the head, and coloured with a red clay and oil. Nearly all carried in their hair a comb projecting in front or on one side, usually made of wood, about a foot in length, with six very long, slightly diverging, needle-shaped teeth; the handle usually decorated with feathers and long streamers. Both sexes had their shoulders and arms roughly tattooed. They appeared to be much astonished at our white complexion, which they at first took for the effect of white paint; nor were they satisfied on this point for some time (not until they had actually felt and seen closely). This would almost confirm the supposition