

good preservation. The slabs from one of these are now being used to construct the foundations for a Wesleyan church. Conspicuous amongst the buildings close by, is the large "visitors' house," where guests were entertained, and, if of distinction, always provided with human flesh, at least once, by their hosts.

Beside the building, a slight depression in the turf is the remains of one of the ovens used for cooking the "long pig," for this is the actual name by which human flesh always went in the Fijian language. I always thought it a joke, until I was told by the interpreter. On a tree overhanging the ovens are to be seen notches, cut in the trunk from its base to its summit, an old score of the number of victims cooked beneath.

There is another stone, not far from Thackombau's house, which is smooth, and somewhat like a millstone in appearance. The ground around this is paved with slabs of coral rock, which had been perforated with holes by boring molluscs and worms before it was taken from the water. So many heads have been dashed against this stone, that it has happened that human teeth have fallen into almost all the holes in the slabs, and have become jammed there. The slabs were quite full of them.

This second stone was seen by Captain Wilkes' officers, and is mentioned by Brenchley. We were told by the people that a second ceremony was performed at it, the heads of bodies being a second time pounded to pieces here, in honour of the slayer, who drank kaava from some grooves which are to be seen in the slab in front. The grooves are, however, very irregular, and look much rather as if they had been made in sharpening stone axes. I think this second stone must have been used by a separate tribe, occupying this quarter of Mbau, for even on this small island the people were often much divided.

On going up the hill we came suddenly upon two old women bathing in a fresh-water pool. They made for deep water in a hurry, but I saw that they were tattooed of a uniform indigo blue colour, from the hips to near the knees, just like the Samoan men.

King Thackombau was visited in the morning by two of our party who took him by surprise; he was found lying on his stomach, reading his Bible. I went with a party and we were regularly announced. The king, who was dressed in a flannel shirt, and a waist cloth reaching to his knees, rose to receive us, and came forward and shook hands. He is a very fine-looking man, six feet high, with his dark face set off with abundance of grey hair. His eyes are bright and intelligent, and his face full