

loins, or suspended across their shoulders like scarves; others were similarly decorated with the green leaves of a strongly scented weed and dried grass. At a given signal all were in readiness, armed with clubs, spears, and battle-axes, which were fantastically decorated with coloured paint; while from their large war-fans, of which a goodly number were displayed, floated long streamers of *tapa*, as delicate and white as the finest muslin. The music was produced by an extensive orchestra, from instruments made of hollow bamboo, which were beaten by short sticks or by striking the ground, and excellent time was kept by singing and shouting. The dancers worked themselves up to a pitch of excitement, making the most violent gesticulations, and waving their arms about frantically; and this scene, being illuminated by the fitful glare of numbers of torches, was one of a most interesting character. On its completion, all returned to the ship well pleased.

The natives are a fine race, and doubtless possess many good qualities; formerly they were pre-eminently bloodthirsty, ferocious, and cruel. Cannibalism was then indulged in to an incredible extent; and this not from mere satisfaction of revenge, but to satisfy appetite, friend, relation, or foe equally affording food to the most powerful. These degrading features, however, are rapidly passing away, under the influences of the Christianising