

plaited cocoanut fibre. Many of these were still mounted on their handles, and are now used by the people who have not parted with them, for cracking nuts. For an exactly similar adze I had paid six shillings in Levuka, and clubs which here were to be bought for a shilling, cost a dollar on the other side of the ridge. It is wonderful how little knowledge has penetrated as yet from Levuka to Bureta, so short a distance off. The natives could not understand a half-crown, nor could they be induced to give four sixpences for a florin. Threepenny-bits they would not take at all. "Sixpenny" and shilling they knew well. The young Mbau chief of course understood these things, and also thoroughly understood the working of my central fire breech-loading gun, he having one of his own at Mbau. Most of the chiefs have good English fowling-pieces and rifles.

After a long delay, and constant promises of a commencement, the dance was begun in a flat oblong open space in the village, which had a raised bank on two sides of it, on which the spectators assembled. As it got dark, bunches of reeds were lighted and held around by girls to light up the dance, for the moon did not rise till late.

Only the young men, all visitors at Livoni, and belonging to the army, danced. We waited on, hour after hour, for the girls to commence, but they took so long in decorating themselves and getting ready, that after fours hours' delay we were obliged to leave in a canoe which we hired for a dollar to make the journey to Levuka by sea.

We had no sooner left than the girls commenced dancing, and they probably waited for us to leave. I saw afterwards in Viti Levu the same dance as that performed by the young men, many of the performers even being the same. I will therefore describe it further on.

We started in the canoe in the tidal part of the Livoni River at about 10 P.M., and as it was low tide, and there was no wind, the canoe had to be poled the whole way down the river, and along the shore, except for short stretches, where deep water compelled the men to paddle. We had imagined that we had only five miles or so to go, but found that the river on which we were came out on the coast of Ovalau, beyond the end of the adjacent island of Moturiki, or almost at the very opposite side of Ovalau from Levuka. We stretched ourselves on the small outrigger platform on the canoe, but the motion was too irregular and the bed too unsteady to allow of much sleep. It was not till half-past 4 A.M., that we reached Lieut. Suckling's schooner.

At 6 A.M., on the same day, July 31st, I started on a cruise