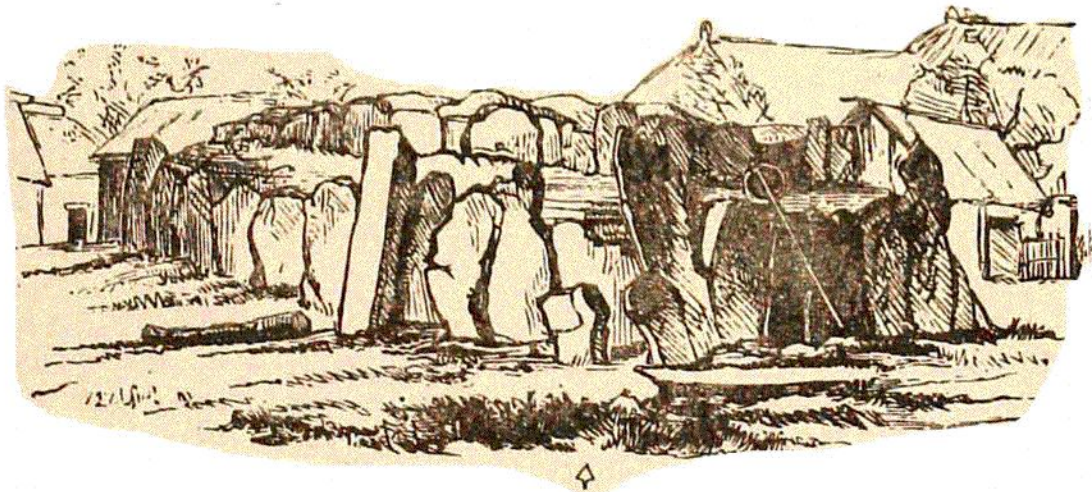


The whole mound most strikingly reminds one of ancient stone circles and such like erections at home. Were the earth of the mound to wash away, numbers of the stone slabs might remain standing on end. I give a copy of a rough sketch which I took of the place in its present condition. Its condition before its destruction is to be seen in a book entitled "Fiji and the Fijians," by Thos. Williams (London, Hodder & Stoughton, 1870). The tumulus supported a large "Mbure" or temple, with the usual high-peaked roof and long projecting decorated ridge pole.

Now the mound is falling into decay and covered with grass, and a small pony (there are very few horses in Fiji, and of course only room for this one in Mbau) belonging to Ratu David, the king's eldest son, found the top of it a pleasant place to graze on. The pony had a quiet life, for Ratu David, having been kicked off on his first attempt at riding, had not tried again.



Sacrificial Stone.

NA VATANI TAWAKI, MBAU, FIJI.

The sacrificial stone, against which the heads of the victims were dashed, is an insignificant looking slab, in no way different from the others, except that it is smaller and stands by itself a little in front of them, near one corner of the mound. In front of it, in old time, bodies have been heaped up till they formed a pile ten feet high. Whilst I was sketching the mound and its stones, a very pretty daughter of one of the chiefs came and looked on, and at my request wrote her name and the Fijian name of the mound in my sketch-book, in a very good round hand.

There are several similar slab-built foundations of temples about the open space near the site of the Na Vatani Tawaki, but except in the case of one small one, they are not in such