

or cuticle of the shoot of the cocoanut tree. These hung in long folds from the backs of their heads, and were wrapped round their bodies as far as up to the armpits, and hung from the waist down to the knees in such quantity as to stick out almost in crinoline fashion. Round the men's heads were turbans, or high cylindrical tubes or mitres of white tappa, whilst hanging on their breasts were pearl oyster shells set in whales' teeth, the most valuable ornament which a Fijian possesses, and which he is forbidden by the chiefs to sell.

Some of the men had remarkable head-dresses. One of them for instance had, sticking out from the front of his head, and secured in his hair, a pair of light thin twigs of wood, which were a yard in length. They were slightly bent over in front of his face, and at their extremities were fastened plumes of red feathers. The whole was elaborately decorated. As he danced, the red plumes swayed and shook at each jerk of his head with great effect.

The most interesting dances were a Club Dance and a Fan Dance, in each of which a large body of full-grown fighting men, some of them with grey beards, performed. In all the dances, except the first one already described, the chorus, which usually contained a number of small girls and boys, sat on the ground at a corner of the Green, and used in addition to the wooden drum, a number of long bamboo joints open at the upper end, which, when held vertically and struck on the ground, give out a peculiar booming note.

In each of the dances there was a leader, who gave the word of command for the changes in the figures, and his part was especially prominent in the Club Dance. In this dance all the attitudes of advance, retreat, and the striking of the blow, were gone through with various manœuvres, such as the forming of single file and of column. Clubs are carefully decorated when used for dancing; some clubs indeed seem to be kept for dancing with, and to correspond to our Court swords in being merely decorative. There are flat spaces near the heads of the curved clubs, which on festive occasions are freshly smeared with red, blue, or white paint. Coloured strips of Screw-pine leaf are often wound round the clubs, and some are decked with beads strung on *Rhizomorpha* fibres. Thackombau's son's club was, as I have said, freshly painted blue near the top. Thackombau on State occasions had a decorated club carried before him, just as at home one is carried before the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford, and even before the President of the Royal Society. No doubt at some future time, when fire-arms have been superseded, rudimentary guns, richly ornamented will be carried in state before distinguished personages.