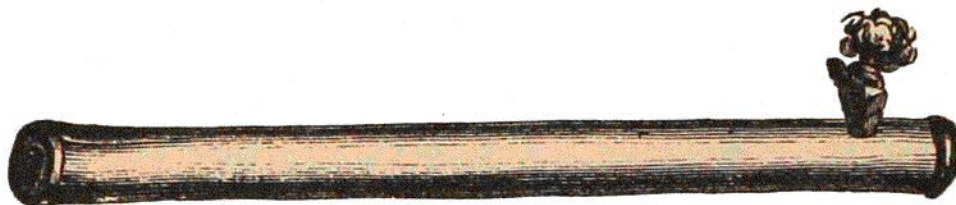


gin bottles, of which there were plenty lying about the camp, brought from the settlement.

The most prized possession of these Blacks is, however, the bamboo pipe, of which there were several in the camp. The bamboos are procured by barter from the Murray islanders, who visit Cape York from time to time, and the tobacco is smoked in them by the blacks in nearly the same curious manner as that in vogue amongst the Dalrymple Islanders. No doubt the Australians have learnt to smoke from the Murray Islanders.*

The tobacco-pipe is a large joint of bamboo, as much as two feet in length and three inches in diameter. There is a small round hole on the side at one end and a larger hole in the extremity of the other end. A small cone of green leaf is inserted into the smaller round hole and filled with tobacco,



BAMBOO TOBACCO-PIPE USED BY THE NATIVES OF CAPE YORK.

which is lighted at the top as usual. A man, or oftener a woman, opening her mouth wide covers the cone and lighted tobacco with it and applies her lips to the bamboo all round it, thus having the leaf cone and burning tobacco entirely within her mouth. She then blows and forces the smoke into the cavity of the bamboo, keeping her hand over the hole at the other end, and closing the aperture as soon as the bamboo is full.

The leaf cone is then withdrawn and the pipe handed to the smoker, who, putting his hand over the bottom hole to keep in the smoke, sucks at the hole in which the leaf was inserted, and uses his hand as a valve meanwhile to allow the requisite air to enter at the other end. The pipe being empty the leaf is replaced and the process repeated. The smoke is thus inhaled quite cold. The pipes are ornamented by the Blacks with rude drawings.

The bamboo pipes of Dalrymple Island are described as having bowls made of smaller bamboo tubes instead of the leaf cone. There are many such in museums. Possibly the leaf is only a makeshift. The Dalrymple Islanders, however,

* J. Beete Jukes. "Narrative of the Surveying Voyage of H.M.S. 'Fly,'" Vol. I., p. 65. London, Boone, 1847.