

Another point of resemblance is, the *immolation* of widows on the demise of the husband. It is true, it is not effected in the same way—not by the pile, but by the bow-string—not by burning, but by strangling. It is very general, too, I am assured; when the husband dies, the hapless wife prepares for her fate: she seats herself—the cord is placed round her neck—one person places his hand on the head of the victim—others seize the extremities of the cord and tighten it to effect strangulation, and the few struggles made are succeeded by the stillness and stiffness of death.

Another circumstance is the burying alive of individuals—a practice not unfrequent in Fejee, but of which I never heard an instance in the Friendly Islands. Individuals, too old or too ill to be of further service, are the victims of this cruel practice. Sometimes it is done, I am told, at the request of the individuals themselves: no effort is made to dissuade them from it, but the willing murderers proceed forthwith to a hole of sufficient capacity: they then convey the sick or aged person to it, and having placed him in the grave in a sitting posture, cast the earth upon him, which is pressed down by the feet of his own relatives or neighbours, nay, stamped upon with all their might—regardless of the moans of the living, whom they are burying out of their sight.

These are revolting details: but they are too true: and prove, better than laboured argument, Fejee's need of the Gospel, to soften the ferocious character of its inhabitants, and to give them bowels of mercy for their tender mercies are cruel.

Wars are common occurrences; so common, that it is usual with the men to carry their weapons with them wherever they go, that they may be able to run to some rallying point, on the first report of war, without loss of time. They are a people who delight in war: they have an almost unappeasable appetite for it.

Connected with their wars is an evil for which I should think the Fejeeans to be pre-eminent, and that is cannibalism; an evil which has now grown into a confirmed appetite and fondness for human flesh. I know it to be a fact, that a number of Fejeeans, at a neighbouring island to this, have gratified that unnatural appetite in two instances. Fejee, I think, exceeds New Zealand in that abominable vice. The accounts which we hear are sickening. It is not one now and then who furnishes a meal for his savage countrymen—nor ten—nor twenty—but hundreds! When I first heard it, I was confident that the statement was exaggerated; but on appealing to the authority of a Fejeean chief, at present here, I was assured by him that it was *moonu aubito*, (most true,) and that some short time ago there were more than two hundred human bodies prepared for a single feast! They were the victims of war, inhabitants of a fortress which had been taken and sacked. But the horrible appetite for human flesh is not appeased there by the victims of war. Frequent as wars are, it is nothing strange for a chief to give orders to kill such a person and dress the body for food, and to do it with as much unconcern as the butcher selects an animal for the knife from the flock or the herd!—*London: Missionary Register.*