

also pure white. In his left hand he held a magnificent bouquet of flowers—a string of flowers was thrown over his shoulder, and another hung around his neck. The bride was very nicely dressed, but mostly in coloured materials, and decked with even more flowers than the groom. About four feet from the mat on which they sat there was a low mud mound or altar, and on it three curiously painted goblets full of water and a number of little plates of fruits and nuts. On one side stood a jar of water, and on the other a large plateful of rice stained yellow and a deep copper plate of saffron water. There were two officiating priests, one dressed as a European, the other as a Coolie, but with an exceedingly dirty copra. Around stood the company and the drummers beating their tom toms with great energy. Behind the bride and groom stood a man and woman as second best. These were liberally supplied with betel nuts and leaves, and temper lime. When the priest began the ceremony, by filling the goblets to the brim and pouring water over the nuts and fruit, they took a piece of betel nut and a little temper lime, and rolled them up in a leaf and stuffed it into the mouths of the couple to be married. This they did very frequently during the ceremony. This combination, when chewed, forms a blood red fluid, which stains the teeth and mouth.

The priests then began to talk and call for something, which was brought in the shape of a yellow thread with a piece of tinsel in the middle. After some incantation this was tied round the head of the groom, the tinsel coming on the forehead. In like manner another was called for and brought and used until there were three on the groom and three on the bride. A brass plate was then presented with fruit and cocoa-nuts, rice, sugar, betel leaves, and cakes. This is the allowance to the priests for their trouble. These were at once removed and some ashes put on the plate, and in the middle of the ashes a lump of camphor, which was lighted. The plate was then lifted to the roof of the gallery and the leaves parted to let some of the smoke pass out. This done, it was passed round, and

every one passed their hands through the smoke or flame and put them up to their face. It was then set before the couple to be married, and a string with an ornament, which all married women wear, was brought and passed through the flame, and given to the groom who tied it round the bride's neck. A deafening shout was then raised, for the parties were married. The roll of the tom toms ceased, and the groom took a handful of ashes and rubbed it on the bride's forehead. The bride returned the compliment. I forgot to mention that the bride's arms were all exposed and painted a dirty yellow colour, and this with the ashes seemed no improvement of her appearance.

The ceremony was not yet done, for friend after friend being called for, came forward, took some of the yellow rice and let it fall in the little showers into the lap of bride and groom, then took the saffron water and waved it three times before them, and dipping the finger into it touched their foreheads. Others took the string of flowers from his shoulder, passed it three times round a bamboo stick at the altar and put it on her shoulder; then took his and did the same and put it on him. This was done again and again with much talk and mirth, till all the friends had taken their part. The assistants then led the newly married couple round the gallery three times, bowing each time as they passed the altar, and into the house where they were seated together on a mat. Quantities of rice were prepared and a goat killed for a grand feast. Several times during the ceremony the whole company was liberally sprinkled with lavender water. In the afternoon Capts. Graham of New Glasgow and Girvan of Pietou came to see us, and we took a walk up through the village. The married parties were then seated in the galleries to receive presents. One of the priests took the money and called out the name and country residence of the donor and the amount in this way,—“Mr. Graham, Graham, British America, &c. ; das pice, &c., (50 cents).” The other priest wrote down these particulars, and the money was dropped into a plate of saffron water.