

The Fijian house is substantially and neatly built. The sides are often made detachable for securing a draught. The native houses have but one room and the floor or rather earth is covered with mats except around the fire place near the middle, where most of the cooking is done on stones. There is no chimney, and the smoke finds its ways out through the thatched roof, at the same time smoking the thatch so that insects of all sorts find it an unpleasant abode. Nevertheless, sometimes a centipede, 10 inches or a foot long, drops down on the mats, which however is deftly caught by the Fijian and put out of harm's way.

To keep the mats clean, he washes his feet before entering his house. For this purpose there is a wooden trough at the door of each house filled with water. After the principal meal of the day, which was partaken by the family in the evening, the adult male population repairs to the large mbure, or club-house, there to gossip, make sinnet or cord from cocoanut fibre, and spend the night. The husbands and fathers do not sleep in their own houses. Funny custom. This sinnet is a most useful article. It is used for decorative purposes in the houses, and when plaited into larger strands serves as rope for their sails and boats. It takes the place of string, cord, rope and nails. I have seen bales and bales of it in the temple where it is stored.

The Fijian is largely communistic, and he cannot understand how in any country there can be any poor people as long as there is anything to eat. To our notions he is lazy. "Why work?" he asks. "Nature supplies me with my every want." His philosophy in Fiji is sound.

Our modern "strike" is not wholly unknown to him. Their houses are built by professional carpenters. There is no fixed price for the building. You engage the carpenter by first making him a present. Then when it is about half finished, he expects the major part of his honorarium. When it is not forthcoming to the extent he expects, he packs up his tools and "strikes," and does not return until his desires are appeased. Plumbers, moulders and bricklayers are not represented in Fiji.

We white people are a conceited race. We imagine that what we know and do is the best in the world. When we come in contact with aborigines, we don't take time to study their habits, customs,