

of hired women, the remains are deposited in an oval shaped hole in some lonely forest, which is then surrounded by thorns to deter wild animals from molesting it. These women are afterward treated with palm wine, and for eight succeeding days they collect round the grave, morning and evening, to weep aloud, often saying to the dead man, "Hadst thou not wives, and arms, and horses, and pipes, and tobacco; wherefore then didst thou leave us?" In some places the negroes build a hut under ground in which the corpse is placed, with supplies of food, water, and tobacco; and to the roof, which projects above ground, are fastened the bow and arrows and lance of the deceased; these preparations being made because they believe the soul of the departed frequently returns to the body for some time, after which they think it passes into some other form. A woman's grave is occasionally distinguished by a pestle and mortar being affixed to the roof, and the burial-places of both sexes are ever regarded with great veneration, whilst an African prince is honored by interment in his own habitation, and the anniversary of his death is dutifully commemorated by the reigning prince, who annually visits his abode, and offers up prayers, while he throws millet into the enclosure.

The Hindoos preserve many singular customs; and it is curious that among them cloth-dealers and weavers alone bury their dead; in all other cases the funeral rites are performed as soon as possible after disease, because those of the same household may not eat until they are concluded; they resemble those of the Africans, inasmuch as hired women, who tear their hair and shriek, continually attend. A Brahmin first ties a species of dog grass, considered sacred, round the dead man's finger; purifies the house with holy water, and prayers are offered up, whilst fire is brought into the room and cow-dung thrown into it, and the Brahmin whispers the ceremonial of initiation in the ear of the deceased. The principal mourners, while this is being done, cause their heads to be shaved, in the hopes of thereby increasing the happiness of the departed in the next world. In the evening a hole is broken in the outer wall of the house, through which the corpse is carried, placed in a sitting posture upon an open sedan chair, and preceded by torches and mournful blasts

of long trumpets. On arriving at the cemetery, the friends, with praiseworthy caution, make sure that life is certainly extinct, and then throwing rice, butter, betel, and fruit on the pile, the body having first been laid upon it, the oldest relative present sets fire to the wood, and the corps is consumed midst loud wailing, music, and funereal songs. The ashes are afterwards collected and thrown, if possible, into one of the sacred rivers, such as the Ganges, the Kishna, and the Jumna, and which has previously received the ashes of the deceased's ancestors. Inferior castes, however, sometimes omit the burning, and wrapping their dead in a coarse white sheet, bury them as the Europeans do, only they shave their beard, head and mustaches, and for several days fast from chewing their favourite betel. The inhabitants of some of the large Asiatic islands keep their corpses much longer, even the poorest, for several weeks; those of persons of rank being detained from burning for one or two years; and the interment of members of the royal family is attended by a terrible barbaric custom of sacrificing by the hands of executioners a certain number of their household slaves, selected by the king from the crowd of eager devotees, for those who do not thus offer themselves are imprisoned for life; the chosen ones are then put to death by the dagger before the royal corpse arrives at the burning pile. This long preservation of the body probably arises from the dislike naturally felt by all to be deprived the last relics of the departed, which amongst the Hindoos are borne away forever by their sacred streams; but in New-Holland, now better known as Australia, and where dead bodies are also sometimes burned, the ashes are collected and buried in spots marked by logs of wood. More commonly, however, the natives of that immense island place their dead in canoes without burning, along with a spear and a throwing stick, and they are thus borne to the burial-ground whilst the attendants wave long tufts of grass backward and forward, as if exorcising evil spirits. The canoes are placed in grass-lined graves to the music of drums, great care being observed in placing the canoe so as to let the sun shine on it, intercepting shrubs being cut down to facilitate the free passage of its rays; and small shrubs are planted over the grave when covered in, which is also distinguished by