

the leaves of the traveller's tree. The floor of the verandah, as well as the house, was formed of thick planks or boards neatly joined, and raised a foot and a half above the ground. The walls inside were covered with *ropa* cloth, and a fine large mat was spread on the floor. A neatly-made four-post bedstead, covered with fine sleeping mats, stood in one corner; choice cooking utensils in another; bags of rice and stores, with materials for making mats, and native and European weapons, occupied other parts of the dwelling. In the centre was a table of native workmanship, covered with a white cloth, on which refreshments were placed, and there were a number of chairs and native seats made of matting, like high square ottomans, in different parts of the room."

Here surely are some elements and signs of civilization. But we proceed to a passage which shows—shall we say?—an advance on some of our own countrymen, or at least equality with some of the refined ladies of a neighboring nation:

MADAGASCAR SNUFF-TAKING.

"I was much amused on this occasion, and often afterwards, with the manner in which the chiefs and people generally indulge their taste for an article resembling snuff, a native manufacture comprising other ingredients besides the pulverised leaf of tobacco, such as salt, and the ashes of a native herb, which mixture is regularly sold in the markets. The retinue of every chief or officer of any rank, includes a bearer of what we should call his snuff-box. Those officers who attend on a superior, or are unattended by their own slaves, carry this article of luxury in some part of their dress, frequently suspended from the girdle, and concealed under the folds of their *lamba*; and we sometimes met a traveller with his snuff-box suspended from his neck, who seemed almost destitute of everything else except the most scanty clothing. On the occasion of our first meeting with the chief with whom we were now conversing, whenever he required the agreeable stimulus, which was tolerably frequent, the attendant slave who was usually squatted behind him, presented to him a short piece of bamboo cane, about nine inches or a foot long, and less than an inch in diameter, beautifully polished, and ornamented with rings. Into the end of this cylindrical case, a circular piece of cane or wood attached to a long tassel of silk threads was neatly fitted. When the slave had removed this ingeniously-contrived stopper or lid, the