

it, this is hollowed out and used as a boat; sometimes they fasten two of them together; it takes quite a skilled navigator to manage them, and a man gets many a good ducking before he can call himself captain of a palmyra log.

Rope is made from the fibres of the tree and used to cord the native mats.

Beams for supporting mud houses are often palmyra trunks; they don't take the trouble to hew or plane them, but just use them as they are. When they get so old that they can't be used for anything else then they are used for firewood.

The leaves are probably utilized more than any other part of the tree; nearly every house among the poorer classes is thatched with palm leaves, the fences, which are made of mud, have a layer of leaves on top to keep the rain from washing them away. You have often seen palm-leaf fans, they make them out here of all shapes and sizes.

The natives formerly made books by splitting the leaves into ribbons and binding them together. Mats are woven from the leaves and used to sleep on, or else hung up to keep out the sun. Baskets and buckets are made; baskets soon fall to pieces, but as they generally cost only one-sixth of a cent, we can afford to buy new ones. The buckets are in the shape of a hollow hemisphere, and are used for drawing and dipping water. We used long bamboo poles with palmyra leaves tied at one end to brush down our walls.

The native umbrella is a huge affair of woven leaves, and often we see travellers going along at night with their umbrellas up because they can't put them down. Canopy tops for the carts or bandies, as they call them, and also for the canal boats.

And last, but not least, when the leaves are too dry or broken for anything else, they are used for firewood, and the stems burnt too.

The fruit doesn't amount to much, it grows in clusters and about as large as a cocoa nut, very fibrous, with a jelly-like substance in the middle. The small boys like to use them for cart wheels. Even the juice or sap is not allowed to waste. The British Government require a license for the privilege of tapping their trees, and the sap, which is much the same as beer, is sold to thousands of these poor people, and they get so drunk and quarrelsome in the villages that you can hear them jangling a mile or two away.

But the Government make thousands of rupees from its toddy palms. Toddy, as the sap is called, is also used as yeast for baking bread. We can't keep yeast, and because this toddy is apt to be a snare to our cook, or, a bad example to native Christians if they saw us buying it ourselves, we can't make our own bread, and so we are obliged to send forty miles every week for bread.

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