



This book is written
by John Orlebar
brother of Richard
Languet Orlebar.



Fanny Wandt
given to her by her affectionate brother
Richard T. Orlebar
Feb^y 22^d 1877

This book is written by
John Orlebar, brother
of R. T. Orlebar, of Hinwick.

A

MIDSHIPMAN'S
JOURNAL,

ON BOARD H. M. S. SERINGAPATAM,

DURING THE YEAR, 1830;

CONTAINING

BRIEF OBSERVATIONS ON PITCAIRN'S ISLAND,

AND

OTHER ISLANDS IN THE SOUTH SEA.

BY LIEUT. J. ORLEBAR, R. N.

LONDON:
WHITTAKER, TREACHER, AND CO.

1833.

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Printed by Joseph Hill and Son, Booksellers, &c.
High Street, Bedford.

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INTRODUCTION.

IF this Journal should give the Reader half the pleasure in the perusal that I had in writing it, I shall be content. What delight have I experienced, many thousand miles from home, in penning all my remarks, fondly anticipating the time when it would meet the eye of the fondest and dearest of friends.—It has now been seen by her and many of my other friends; and on their kind suggestion I publish it, more with the idea of spreading it among my numerous acquaintance than of becoming known to the world as a scribbler.

Few are they who have not appeared one time or other in print, and in these days, no man is safe. The most idle and thoughtless, trusting in their imagination write novels,—the most sage and stupid write essays or political pamphlets. Such being the case, I also join the crowd, and present to the Reader this unpretending little book, trusting it may afford some information and amusement.

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CHAPTER I.

VALPARAISO,—THE ANDES,—EASTER ISLAND.

I HAVE omitted my remarks on the coast of Brazil, &c. as being trite and common-place; and at once carry the reader to places and people that more nearly interested me. On December 17th, 1829, H. M. S. Seringapatam took her departure from Rio de Janeiro, and proceeded with every variety of wind and weather for the coast of Chili. The passage round Cape Horn has been described so frequently as so terrific, that the good weather we experienced will be received as something wonderful. We were 49 days from Rio de Janeiro to Valparaiso, and although we had several stiff breezes, there was not one we could dignify with the title of "a gale of wind."

On February 3rd, 1830, we anchored at Valparaiso; our stay there was to be short, so I took every opportunity of going ashore that the duty of the ship would allow. How much do I feel my ignorance of drawing, now that I wish to describe Valparaiso. The talented draughtsman can in a moment infix by the magic of his pencil the image and description of a scene, so as to present to the eye a living picture and representation of Nature's wildest beauties: but the plodding writer, deprived of the aid of that art, labors by language to communicate his own sentiments on the appearance, and to construct by words an image of the scene, in which he is sure

more or less to fail; for another eye may view it in a very different light, and his mind would consequently embody contrary ideas. What two men can agree in their opinion of beauty? the one admires a dark complexion, the other, a fair: even so with the beauties of Nature; some prefer the regular features of a rich well-cultivated country, watered with navigable rivers, and alternate hill and dale; while others love the wild but striking features of mountain scenery,—rocks piled on rocks—the dash of torrents—the dark gloom of forests lining the deep ravines, and their high summits lost amid the clouds.

In Valparaiso the latter scenery predominates, but in a tamer style; the town built under the cliffs that form the base of the high hills rising at the back, has straggled in small ill-built houses up the bottoms and sides of the ravines, and in some places crowning the wild and rocky cliffs. It is connected by a few houses to a suburb nearly its own equal in size, consisting of low miserable huts, distinguished by the name of “Almandral,” and situated on the low sandy plain at the foot of the hills which form the eastern corner of the bay. With these additions, Valparaiso has very much increased in size, and may with justice rank as the second town in Chili. The bay affords good but deep anchorage and from the prevalence of southerly winds is safe and smooth in the summer; but on the approach of winter, it is not a desirable roadstead, being without shelter from a northerly wind, which raging with great fury, throws on its shore the whole force of the vast Pacific. We lie at anchor about a quarter of a mile from the shore; the view from seaward

throws the town into shade and insignificance, and even the rounded barren summits of the hills in the vicinity, partially clothed with low stunted bushes, and rising some hundred feet above the sea, appear mean and unprofitable to the eye which impatiently glances to a more worthy object. What a rapturous soul-engrossing prospect bursts upon the sight! At the bottom of the bay to the N. E. towering over all, and reposing in silence and majesty, we see the venerable snow-capt Andes; asserting their superiority to be gazed on and worshipped at the immense distance of 110 miles. They seem part of another world, so coldly, so lightly do they rest on the deep blue vault of heaven: while dwelling with delight on their beauteous grandeur, my fancy has often compared them to the spirits of the departed, who purified from the dross and contamination of humanity, still look down with an eye of pity upon the children of men. It is a whimsical comparison and will not bear analysing; but I am sorry I cannot do justice to my subject, for with the Andes our admiration ceases; my acquaintance with the country has detected no additional beauties, and what is of more consequence, but little cultivation. All over Chili agriculture is much neglected; along the coast and on the hills round Valparaiso, the soil is dry and sterile, but inland I am told there is much good land lying waste: the corn grown in the country is not sufficient even for themselves, although it evidently possesses the capability of supplying all the coast to the northward. The country is still in such a troubled state, that there is a material check on industry, and a few years of

peace would make a great change in the face of it, and would direct the energies that are now wasted in civil broils, to the nobler purpose of improving themselves and benefitting each other by the pursuits of agriculture and commerce. I must defer drawing their character till I have had better opportunities and farther observation of them.

We left on the 13th of February, and on the 16th anchored in Coquimbo Bay, where we found an expedition commanded by General Freyre, on the point of sailing it was supposed for Valparaiso.—It cut a miserable figure, five or six small craft, crowded with soldiers, with one armed vessel was their whole naval force, but backed by a numerous discontented party, Freyre aspires to overthrow the existing Government, and raise himself on their downfall. When we return we shall know how he succeeded, as he sailed on the second day. Our object at Coquimbo being accomplished, we left the Sapphire, which vessel arrived the same day as ourselves, and proceeded on our cruise to the South Sea Islands. Coquimbo Bay is very imperfectly sheltered from the northerly winds, but otherwise is smooth and safe anchorage, and possesses an advantage over Valparaiso, the water not being so deep; the adjacent scenery is poor and commonplace, but retrieved by a splendid view of the Andes at the distance of only 90 miles. The hills around are clothed in dry sterility, but many contain valuable mines; the plains from their sandy soil, are incapable of culture, except when watered by the rivers, which are few and uncertain in their flow. The town of Serena, situated about six miles along

the coast, north of the port, is watered by the Coquimbo, which overflowing at certain seasons has enriched the neighbouring soil, and on a small scale has imitated the beneficial influence of the Nile: for many miles inland the banks of this river yield a grateful increase to the labourer, either laid out in meadows or sown with corn. The town, built in squares, is partially defended by a ruinous wall; the houses are mean, and many have suffered much from the frequent earthquakes. Without trade and without manufactures, only containing 800 inhabitants, in England, Serena would now be properly called a village, although once occupying the second rank amongst the towns of the Presidency of Chili.—When off the Horn, the captain had told us of the intended trip to the islands of the South Sea, and many of us at Valparaiso had purchased articles for traffic: from an unfortunate deficiency in cash I was obliged to be very sparing. We were led indeed to expect a fertile field of novelty and amusement, and while wafted by an easterly Trade Wind into the bosom of the Pacific, our progress only checked by partial calms, we were busied in imagining adventures with the savages, and gathering from various voyages, some ideas of the people we were likely to visit.

On March 6th, at five in the morning, we observed Easter Island, and running down the eastern side of it, at the distance of three or four miles, our spy-glasses, which had for some time been eagerly directed towards the island, discovered close to the beach several low huts and three tall figures, which we at once conjectured to be the statues spoken of

by the Dutchman who first discovered the island. About ten o'clock we rounded the south point, a high bluff cliff, and hauled our wind for the anchorage, an open roadstead, but sheltered from the prevalent winds in this latitude. The shore was lined with people, and long before we anchored, the ship was surrounded by shoals of the swimming naked natives. We were anxious for them to come on board, but as there were nearly two hundred in the water, the captain prudently would only allow forty to be on board at a time, to effect which we were obliged to use some harshness. Their surprize and wonder was extreme, and their wild uncouth gestures while saluting us, and their shrewdness and discernment were both equally astonishing. As an instance of which, directly they came on board, parties of them proceeded to measure the length and breadth of the ship by extending their arms along the deck, the size of our fathom;—others counted the number of officers and men, and each as they finished, set up a wild cry of astonishment. Many robberies were attempted, some of which amused us extremely: the corporal of marines lost his cap off his head, and the thief was only discovered, by the splash of water he made, as he dashed overboard, and he eluded all our endeavours to catch him, by dexterously diving, when our boat came up to him, and among the multitudes around we found it impossible to discern the thief. A messmate of mine was pestered by the attention of a native who wished to dance with him, and while amused with his monkey tricks, found he had lost every thing out of his pockets, among which a white

cambric handkerchief seemed the great favourite, as it was displayed by the native to his admiring countrymen at the moment he jumped overboard to elude our grasp. Another native, after being detected in one or two thefts, plunged overboard with the end of a coil of rope, the topsail haulyards, and was swimming away with it, but being fast inboard, it checked him suddenly, and after a few ineffectual struggles, he was obliged to relinquish it. For some time, their noise, their eagerness to barter every thing for iron or for clothes, their joy at receiving presents, expressed by a rude awkward dance, and their extreme animation and good humour, pleased every one; but soon their mischievous propensity to steal and pillage every thing became so annoying, as to oblige us to turn them forcibly out of the ship. For hours afterwards there were hundreds swimming round the ship, and making every good-tempered endeavour to get on board; and it was not till sunset that they returned to the shore. Captain Waldegrave made two attempts to land, but could not succeed from the heavy surf running on the rocky beach, and as we sailed the same evening, we are obliged to remain satisfied with the little we could observe of the island by the aid of our spy-glasses and our acquaintance with the natives on board.

The men are tall and large boned, their features plain, but possessing much animation, and shaded with a quantity of long lank black hair; they are of a dark brown color and some were much tatooed. The women are very delicately made, of a lighter color, pretty features, and elegantly tatooed, and

would be fascinating if there was not too great a display of charms; both sexes are *sans habit*, but the women have their persons adorned with one narrow strip or girdle of leaves in front. We found that chastity was not in their catalogue of virtues, but certainly, proved with us, I am ashamed to say, their best article of traffic. On shore we observed the natives wore a loose sort of cloak or mantle, made we conjectured from the paper mulberry tree, thrown loosely over the shoulders and extending to the hips. The island seems cultivated with some attention, although their only tools are made of lava, and produces yams, sugar canes, sweet potatoes, and bananas; water is very scarce and very bad, and Prowse mentions that the only spring of fresh water is made undrinkable, by their constantly bathing in it and its exposure to the heat of the sun. We could see no trees of any kind in the island, and we believe there are none; although the very few arms we saw were made of the iron wood; perhaps floated to their shores, for of the whole number that came on board, there were but two short clubs and three small carved images.

We observed the houses on shore were low, of an oblong shape, and seemingly built of stone; Prowse mentions them as containing the inhabitants of a whole village, being sometimes 310 feet long; I think it not at all unlikely as they appeared of that length from the ship, and were scattered all over the country. Prowse also gives me some information about the statues we saw on the other side of the island, which he found by measurement to be 14 feet in height, but imperfect in all but the

features of the face, which are surprisingly well executed. The island from its rugged appearance, and from the lava we found amongst the natives is evidently a volcanic production. Here I think, civilization may perhaps never extend; so far from any land, its inhospitable shores, without one secure anchorage, and devoid of water or fuel,—its inhabitants, the rudest of savages and hardly possessed of the bare necessaries of life, hold out no temptation to polished money-seeking man, and may linger in barbarism for ages.

Their food must be nearly confined to vegetables, for fowls are the only animals on the island, and even their supply of fish which are abundant in these seas must be very precarious, as their contrivance for catching them is awkward and they possess only three canoes. The water seemed their native element; the ease with which both sexes swam, their swiftness, and their remaining in for hours without being fatigued, astonished every body; a few of the women had a bundle of rushes which helped to buoy them up, but it was quite confined to their sex. I should judge from the little we saw of the natives that they were a quiet inoffensive race, and although no one seemed possessed of exclusive authority, from the scarcity of their offensive weapons, I should judge they were peaceable amongst themselves. Of their religion we know nothing, Prowse says they pay no worship to the statues; we observed all along the shore piles of stones, surmounted by one white pebble, and they had two or three small carved images, to which however they paid no reverence.

The island was first discovered by Admiral Roggewein, 1672, and is 35 miles in circumference, and the number of inhabitants seems not to exceed 700, of which I dare say we saw two-thirds, for the shore was lined with them. Here I will gladly bid them adieu, for although I would not have missed seeing them, yet the picture of such men, so little removed from the brute creation, is a painful and disagreeable lesson to our pride, and our pity for them is mingled more with disgust than love.

CHAPTER II.

PITCAIRN'S ISLAND—HOSPITABLE ENTERTAINMENT
—THE GRAVE OF JOHN ADAMS.

A continuance of the same fine weather brought us on Sunday night, March 14th, in sight of the interesting island of Pitcairn's, and the next morning we hove to windward of it, distant about two miles. This speck of land, only seven miles round, rises abruptly from the sea covered with the greenest foliage, peeping from the midst of which, here and there, we saw the low huts of the natives; in the middle the ground is much higher, and forms a sort of wall extending the length of the island, and ending in an abrupt cliff to the northward. Our English colors soon attracted the natives, who were observed coming toward us in a whaleboat; but one man in a nutshell of a canoe was picked up by our cutter and brought first on board. He was dressed decently in a jacket and trowsers, but without shoes, and readily addressed us in English, and shook each by the hand; we somewhat overwhelmed him with the multitude of our questions, nor could he understand us when we spoke quick, as is our cus-

tom aboard ship. His countrymen now arrived in the whaleboat, and our attention was divided among ten or eleven fine strapping, active looking young men, all dressed in jacket and trowsers, and though their skin was dark brown, some were really handsome; their greeting was cordial, but the clergyman soon engrossed all their attention; they had never it seems seen one before, and the strict notions of religion, instilled into their minds by John Adams, made them most anxious to receive the blessing and advice of so holy a character: and I have no doubt but that Mr. W. who is a man truly religious, was of the greatest service to them. We found ourselves frequently at a loss to understand their English, and they perhaps more so to comprehend ours:—for their wants and occupations are so confined, and the simplicity of their ideas requires but few words of expression, that only the most common and simple seem known among them.

Questions on questions were put regarding the crew of the *Bounty*, but we learnt nothing that we had not heard of before, except that the last survivor, John Adams “their father” as he is universally called by them, died, full of years, twelve months ago, and loaded with the prayers and blessings of the natives: and at this moment, the person that mentions his name has his eye moistened with a tear of sad recollections.

There being no anchorage, the ship stood off and on to windward of the island, and every opportunity was given for us to go on shore; our visitors left us about noon, and the captain and some of the officers accompanied them, remaining all night:

on the morrow I had leave with many others, and at an early hour left the ship. The weather bespoke a fine day; a light haze covered the waters and the clear blue sky was unsullied by a cloud; we approached the island, with hardly a breath of wind, the sea was boiling and foaming, and the heavy dash of billows against the rocks drowned our voices; piloted by a young lad that belonged to the island, we lay on our oars without the edge of the surf, while with a peculiar shrill call, common I found to the other islands in the South Sea, he gave them ashore to understand we were arrived. We had remained in this way an hour, watching a break or dent which he pointed out as our landing place, when we observed several figures among the trees which lined the shore, and presently one of them diving dexterously through the surf, came on board, and taking the tiller from the coxswain, desired us to pull in. The passage was most intricate, leading as it were through the centre of the roaring surf; borne on the bosom of a wave that topped so fearfully as to threaten each moment to overwhelm us, his cry of “Pull away, pull away, boys,” shewed that even to them ’twas a dangerous task: we spun with the rapidity of an arrow among rocks covered with foam, and one hard bump displayed us for a moment on the very pinnacle of one, when half a dozen of the tall natives, who were observing us, sprang to our assistance, and watching the surf which again rolled toward us, launched us onward and in a moment we grounded on the beach, under the shade of a large tree.

Assisted by the kind natives we soon cleared the boat, and partly hauled her up, not to be damaged by the surf, which divested of its fury by the numerous rocks, still boiled and bubbled to the very foot of the tree. I hardly knew our visitors of yesterday so differently were they clad; a scarf of dark tappa tied round the waist and hanging down with every attention to decency was their only clothing, and displayed to much advantage their manly height and noble deportment, (few being less than six feet). Several young boys were making a game of what to us appeared destruction; they were diving through the surf,—and then floating back again, skilfully avoiding the rocks that threatened us with so much danger. They now led the way along the side of the hill through a grove of coconut trees to their scattered cottages, six of which being built nearer together were dignified with the title of town; all were anxious to shew attention and hospitality to us, and without much scruple we quartered ourselves severally on them. My host was just going to have his dinner, as he told me, altho' then not nine o'clock; for in this happy country they have no stated time for meals, but "eat when hungry, drink when dry;" and as this was a holiday with them on account of our arrival, they had killed "the fatted pig;"—he told me their usual fare is nearly entirely vegetable food. I found in a rough built hut, consisting of two stories and one room on a floor, seated round a table replenished with the baked pig and yams, a very aged woman, one middle aged, and several youths of both sexes.

After a cordial greeting, a long grace^r was repeated by our host, and their politeness giving to me their only knife and fork, I was forced to take upon myself the duties of carver, which did not however interfere with my making a most hearty breakfast: when concluded, grace was again said, all the company listening with the strictest attention: this I found to be always a particular observance, and quite in keeping with the fervor and simplicity of their religious character, which much to their credit is not, as with us *a name only*, but pervades their every action. But to return,—My host told me that the old woman who I had remarked was one of the four Tahitean women who came with the crew of the *Bounty* from Tahiti; their age is unknown, but they cannot be less than 60, yet they still bustle about, and work as hard as the youngest: but an old woman, as Goldsmith says, has a world of prejudice to surmount before she can become anything but an object of pity, and often of disgust; for from our cradles we recall the stories of witchcraft, malice, and cruelty imputed to the old and infirm of the female sex, and though the light of reason tells us it is most unjust, still this bugbear of the imagination influences more than the moiety of mankind in their behaviour to the unfortunates. I confess that she looked so old and corpse-like, that I gladly escaped from her awkward expressions of pleasure at the appearance of my clothes, my gun, &c., and followed my host, whose name I found was Young, to see their school room. This was built with more attention to neatness than any of their dwelling houses, and being

nearly new was not yet soiled by the careless habits of the schoolboy; the master, whose name was Nobbs, had not long been with them, and there was a mystery that hung over his appearance and character, which I think would hardly bear scrutinizing. However, he is married to one of the prettiest natives, and professes that his only object in coming amongst them, was to fly the cares of the busy world, and impart any knowledge he possessed to the furtherance of the great ends of Religion: but there are some who already think that Nobbs being tolerably well-informed and versed in the ways of the world, affects a superiority over them, which is extremely hurtful to their strict notions of independence and liberty of action, and has created a division amongst them, further fomented, I think by the arts of two other Englishmen, who are jealous of the new comer. "May not this, I thought,"—as I gleaned the information from one or other of the natives, "may not this be the means of spoiling this simple and unaffected race, seemingly so happy and contented, and make them forget what we never I fear truly practice,—their duty towards their neighbour."

It was delightful to meet every-where with the clear brow and smiling countenance of health and content; their happiness centered in the bosom of their families, and all the capabilities of living comfortable within their reach;—hallowed by religion, their lives must be one continued stream of uninterrupted pleasures. "And is it for man, thought I,—(while lingering lonely on the ridge, that as a wall divides the island into two parts,) is it for Man,

civilized man, to dash this fair cup of joy from their grasp?—and to give to them from their own vile cup of sins and sorrows?" But in soberness of thought, and divested of all romance, I must say, that such is most likely to follow, solely from the visits of strangers, without any bad intentions on their part. For our minds in civilized life are so differently toned, our tastes so pampered and perverted, that though for a time novelty might please, the order and simple regularity of such a life must pall at last on minds so restless and so long accustomed to the exciting, polished, but more deceitful pleasures of the world: the discontent we ourselves feel will soon be spread amongst them, and that noxious weed once allowed to grow will over-run and choak all the useful plants in their mental garden; it will cherish a love of distinction, which till now had lain dormant on the soil, but at once becomes of such importance, that to it they sacrifice willingly all their happiness, and

"What nothing earthly gives, or can destroy:—
The soul's calm sunshine, and the heartfelt joy."

POPE.

But I am indulging myself by an excursion into the future, without recalling to my mind my own situation on the aforesaid ridge, from which I descended after gazing around on the wide expanse of waters and the one spot occupied by the gallant and beautiful vessel, that had borne me so far and so well: there she lay "like a thing of life,"—her tall and tapering masts hid by her swelling sails, and her low dark hull, dashing the spray from her bows, and circling her with a sheet of white foam; but enough:—The path I had taken led me by

patches of luxuriant vegetation, here and there betraying the hand of the native, by being turned into the semblance of a garden, abounding with bananas and sweet potatoes, and water melons, and again abruptly terminated by the deep ravine, whose bed though lined with stones, afforded nourishment to the roots of a hundred tall trees. I paused for a moment at the last dwelling-place of the few mutineers, that had given to this island its inhabitants; in this quiet spot o'ershadowed by acacias, I recognized the lowly grave of John Adams, —a humble slab of wood, some relic of the *Bounty*, with his name rudely carved, was all that told of the departed; and while his early fame is sullied by the daring act of mutiny, his latter days were so usefully, so meritoriously employed, that he richly deserves the converse of those lines of Shakespeare—

“The evil that men do, lives after them,
The good is oft interred with their bones.”

He indeed must have been a singular good and worthy man, of strong mind and most unerring intentions; in the whole island, his praise and sorrow for his loss were constant and never-tiring themes.

Here some of the natives joined me, to them this is a sacred spot, and the ready smile died on their lips, as they murmured the name of the old patriarch, and a prayer mingled itself with a reply to some foolish question I unthinkingly asked: I saw my error and hurried away to some more genial place. It was only now mid-day, and hearing the sound of music, which in the tones of a violin and

flute, from the ship, much pleased and astonished them, I willingly joined myself in the task of amusement, by dancing country dances and quadrilles. In so warm a country this could not last long, and the remainder of the day was agreeably spent in observing the manufacture of the “tappa,” and many other things new and amusing to us.—Tappa is a species of cloth, made from the bark of a young plant, called the Chinese mulberry, as in all the South Sea islands; they, I believe, steep the barks when stripped from the tree in water for two or three days, then with a short club beat them into one another; in this pulpy state they adhere, and after a very laborious operation, they become of the thickness required. Here they make but little, as they have European clothing, but at the other islands, it becomes nearly the sole occupation of the women,—who meet in parties and beat a sort of tune with their clubs that may be heard for miles;—and is of so much the more consequence, as all their clothing is a piece of tappa, and the king or chiefs exact a tax of it yearly.

I saw on this island for the first time the banyan tree, and although it did not equal the tales of travellers, still was eminently curious, and I would not have missed seeing it, for if it does grow in the high lands of Tahiti, I had never the opportunity of again observing it.

About five o'clock we took our leave, and again the coolness, skill, and activity of the natives were displayed in launching us through the breakers into the open sea, and then shaking heartily the hands of the brave swimmers that had followed us,

we made sail, and in the course of half-an-hour were on board.

We remained off the island for six days, being detained by the desertion of one of our men, who however was discovered by the natives, and brought on board by the first lieutenant. I did not go ashore again, but gained some further information from the natives that occasionally came on board.^a The total number of the inhabitants is 81, but not above one-third are adults; within the last few years they have had several visits from merchantmen, and some of the young men went a short time back in a schooner to an island some hundred miles off for pearls, and from their good diving obtained for her¹ an excellent cargo; in return for which the master of the schooner only gave them a check shirt and trowsers apiece, so that here even they are exposed to the roguery of man. But adieu to Pitcairn's Island,—as a subject dwelt on with pleasure and only parted from with regret: its outline traced on the utmost verge of the horizon is fast fading from my sight, and it is not likely I shall ever see it again, yet its innocent inhabitants have awakened an interest in me which will ever make me anxious to hear its future story!

CHAPTER III.

THE MARQUESAS—TAHITI.

OUR course was directed to the Marquesas, a group of islands lying to the northward, in 10° S. lat. and on Friday the 26th of March, the southernmost of them hove in sight and in the evening three islands were on either hand of us: a light air wafted us onward through the night and the next afternoon we anchored in one of the many bays that intersect the island of Nooaheeva. Not finding here all the conveniences for watering that we expected, we proceeded the next day to another bay farther to windward, but we had only exchanged bad for worse; we were anchored on a lee shore and the little water we obtained was at the imminent risk of losing all our boats. After struggling against these disadvantages for two days, we discovered that on the other side of the island, a few minutes walk from the head of this bay, there was a smooth and snug harbour, and very convenient for getting water; there we at last arrived and staid till we had completed our supply.

In appearance all the Marquesas much resemble one another; rugged, steep, rocky hills, bare of all verdure, rising nearly perpendicular from the sea, are agreeably relieved and diversified by the wildness and beauty of the glens that intersect them on every hand, the depths of which were covered with a profusion of magnificent trees, and among them we occasionally distinguished the brown mud huts of the natives. Our acquaintance is only with Nooaheeva, which is the largest and most fertile of the group and contains the most inhabitants. The intercourse we had with the natives was free and unrestrained, and only partially interrupted by one solitary instance of theft; but the greatest goodwill existed throughout. One man amused me much; we thought he was a person of some consideration and treated him therefore with distinction,—we were anxious he should drink some wine, he tasted it, but nothing could persuade him to drink; but on tasting sugar and water he seemed delighted and drank so much that it was fortunate there really was no other ingredient. Their manners were uncouth and savage, yet far removed from the barbarism of the Easter Islanders, and although they spoke of having seen other vessels, we still surprised them exceedingly and every trifle was a source of wonder and astonishment to them. Deeply tainted by the besetting vice of these islands—the extreme of sensual enjoyment, the women, who in general are delicate, and if not pretty are finely and gracefully made, crowded on board of us, and were doubly gratified by reaping a harvest of presents as well as embraces from good-tempered Jack. The

men are tall, handsome, and well-built, their muscles prominent and limbs well-set, promising both strength and activity; their color is naturally a clear brown, but so partial are they to the “tattoo” that they discolor the whole body with its punctures, and many become quite black: there is a good deal of attention paid to the dressing of the hair which is sometimes formed into two bows on the crown of the head, and at times different according to the fancy of the wearer.

The natives use but little clothing, often none at all: the tappa when worn is thrown as a mantle over the shoulders, but very seldom for the purpose of decency. In the few days we were amongst them we could discern no one that exercised rule or authority over them, and it seemed that in their rude ideas of liberty they disdained to obey a despot, king, or chieftain; but their experience was too narrow, their passions too headlong,—to compose a system of equal law or general defence. Some voluntary respect we observed was yielded to age and valour, but each tribe or village existed as a separate republic; and in the full licence of their passions, quarrels frequently arise, and blind to their own interests war in the most horrid forms of extermination or slavery to the defeated, constantly exists among them. This it is that checks the advance of civilization, for they have long been known by the Europeans, and for many years have been visited by their vessels; indeed two Europeans have been living among the islands for years, yet the only advantage the natives have reaped from these circumstances is an insatiable desire for

powder and muskets, not to expend in the defence of their country, but to be turned against the bosoms of their fellow-countrymen. It is a mournful truth, that the missionaries of Tahiti who had extended their labors to these islands have met with such repulses, as to force them to give up the attempt in despair. The natives indeed seem to prefer the life they lead; and though they are always subject to surprise and death, in their desperate never-ending hostilities, and often to long and protracted pains of famine, the land is fertile and would yield sufficiently for the population; but in war they endeavour mutually to destroy their nearly sole means of subsistence, by cutting down the bread-fruit and cocoa nut trees and burning all before them.

I found while staying here some amusement in shooting a pretty species of dove, which is very numerous, and the sport led me from the entangled thicket to the huts of the natives. The hospitality that exists in rude uncivilized countries is proverbial. I was invited into the interior of a hut to share their simple repast; the faint light that stole in by the doorway shewed me a mat spread in one corner, on which were laid one or two sleepers, and the remainder of the floor covered with cocoa nuts, piled up against the sides of the hut, a few clubs, some sugar canes, and a gourd filled with a sour substance, made by the fermenting of the bread-fruit—a preparation which I could not taste without feeling sick, but in some seasons their principle article of food. The milk of the cocoa nut is most refreshing in this warm climate, and I pleased them by the awkward perseverance I

shewed in emptying the nut of its contained treasure: a present of some old iron reconciled them to my departure, as I felt the heat quite oppressive, and retrod my path to the beach. Here I found every thing wore the appearance of a gala; a hundred or two of the natives were seated on the beach, some with pigs, with fowls, yams, cocoa nuts, and sugar cane; and others again with spears and darts, made of a hard wood² which grows in great abundance in all the South Sea Islands: their eagerness to barter,—their strange but intelligent gestures of intreaty, pleasure, and dislike, in driving their bargains,—the quiet but intelligent lasciviousness of their females,—all gave a spirit to the scene, heightened as it was by the delicious coolness of the evening breeze, and secured as we were by the friendly shade of some noble trees at our back from the fast-dying but still powerful rays of the setting sun. But tired with the fatigues of the day, I gladly found my way on board, and our sailing the next deprived me of the opportunity of making any more observations.

We left on the 2nd of April, and steered our course for Tahiti; on the third day we passed several groups of small islands, and on this immense ocean where appearances are so different from the Northern Hemisphere, the stranger is agreeably gratified at one time with the sight of hills thickly covered with verdure rising abrupt from the sea, and at another with low sandy islands covered with a profusion of cocoa nuts, and treacherously surrounded by reefs of coral. We perceived the mountains of Tahiti at the distance of 60 miles, which on ap-

proaching we found barren and naked,—burnt as it were by the intense heat of the sun, with the exceptions of the deep ravines, which were thickly clothed with the luxuriant growth of every species of tree and fruit. We found at the bottom of these hills what we indeed found to be common to many of the islands in these seas,—a low and narrow girth of land extending round the island and profusely covered with the cocoa nut and bread-fruit trees. Beyond this again was the formidable coral reef over which broke a tremendous sea, and at first we could see no passage through it to the Harbour of Matavai, which having been the port where Cook anchored, we intended visiting: on standing close in shore we at length observed Point Venus, and a few minutes with a commanding breeze brought us to an anchor about a quarter of a mile to leeward of it.

We were not long without visitors, and a brisk traffic commenced for numerous delicious fruits, among which we noticed the orange and pine-apple, both foreign to the soil of Tahiti, but introduced by Cook or subsequent voyagers. Their advance in civilization already taught them to value a dollar, and their love of finery and imitation of European manners led them to the adoption of a singular variety of costumes: many wore shirts alone, others trowsers; here one appeared with the heavy fur cap of a Russian, and another with the embroidered waistcoat of a Frenchman; some few rich in the possession of a whole though tattered suit looked down with a laughable degree of contempt on their less clothed neighbours, and perhaps feeling confi-

dent their appearance commanded respect, distinguished the officers, and each claimed the once honorable title of “tio” to some one among us.—The universal reading of Cook’s voyages has made every one acquainted with the office of “tio”; in English it may be rendered “friend,” but in its original sense implying a much wider sphere of duties: at present we found it very different, being only a shelter for rogues to practise impositions on us; for our “tios” while devoting themselves to our service, ingeniously reminded us of their wish to wear any of our old clothes or even to receive a dollar as a mark of our friendship. Before night the captain had received a visit from the missionary resident at Port Venus, and by his advice determined to move the ship to a more secure harbour further to leeward. In the morning we weighed and made sail, but were prevented by calms and variable winds from reaching Papeiti until the third day, when we found it all that the missionary had told us. An encircling reef of coral forms it into a most perfect basin, small in size but possessing all the requisites of a good port.

The following day, I went on shore, it was Sunday and numerous groups of well or rather tawdry dressed natives, standing about a large tumble-down wooden building directed me to the church. With much interest I followed the crowd into the body of the building, and was shewn into the only pew, belonging as I afterwards found to the minister. The floor of the church was covered with benches, and I observed that the men and women sat apart, each taking one side of the church. The service

was performed in the native language and diversified by the singing of psalms to some of our most popular tunes. The propriety of their behaviour and the strict attention they paid to the prayers and discourse of the minister,—several of them even taking notes, prepossessed me much in their favor, and I was disposed to allow them every good quality: but in conversation with their minister, Mr. Pritchard, I found the truth of the old adage, “all is not gold that glitters,”—for he informed me that although many of his congregation delighted him by their desire to learn and the regularity of their conduct, by far the greater part were cold and callous to the advancement of religion, and conformed only so far to escape censure. My slight experience has led me to conclude that though they have an outward shew of morality, they plunge as deep into vice as before the introduction of Christianity, and that it is only the authority of the missionaries that has forced them to acknowledge even chastity as a virtue, but all their power cannot lead them to the practice of it.

I have mentioned the missionaries as possessing power and authority; they derive it from the friendship and confidence of the chiefs, and it is exerted I believe to the most beneficial purposes. Through patience and perseverance they have effected a considerable alteration in a people so proverbially sensual and initiated in the very acme of vice:—to prove which, I need only mention the institution of the “Arreois,” which has perhaps been too minutely described in some editions of Cook’s voyages. Since that time its great extension has proved as

fatal to the lives of the inhabitants, as it had before been to their morals. One of its most barbarous and brutal rules, was the obligation of every Arreoy to murder its progeny, and so effectually was this outrage against Nature performed, that it lamentably decreased the population of the island; and an intelligent missionary has calculated that up to the general establishment of Christianity in 1818, not less than two-thirds of the children born annually were destroyed at their birth.

Tahiti is the largest island in these latitudes, but its population has always been so small in comparison, that its interior has never been peopled; the inhabitants finding the narrow girth of land that encircles the island, quite sufficient for their few and simple wants. The population has been rated by Captain Cook at 30,000, at present it is not 10,000: from having no correct data, it is probable he erred considerably, but every thing tends to prove that its population has been much greater than it is at present. Wars, famines, to which from their idleness and improvidence they are constantly liable, and the cause above mentioned, have reduced them wonderfully. In the finest island and climate in the world and perhaps possessing the richest soil, to speak of the ravages of famine, must strike one as singular and improbable, but it is too true: every two or three years they encounter a particularly dry season that destroys every fruit and vegetable; and although experience has taught them to expect a scarcity at this certain period of the year, they lay up no store from the super-abundance they generally possess, and are

consequently reduced to the greatest distress. It is then they resort to the highlands of the interior, whose rich soils produce untilled, plantains, yams, &c.; but these are not obtained without much labor, and while many die rather than so exert themselves, others live miserably on these and the root of a species of fern, called by them "nahe," the apples of Noro (*morinda citrifolia*), and the stalks of the pohur (*convolvulus Brasiliensis*.)

The natives are divided into three classes:—"hui arii," the royal family and nobility,—"bui raatira," the landed proprietors or gentry,—and "manakine," the common people including the "titi" and "teuteu," the slaves and servants. The middle class, the landed proprietors, as in most countries, constitute the strength and power of the island; but the hereditary nobility possess great power and deserve some attention, from forming a distinct class. It is singular that throughout the Society Islands, this class is physically superior both in size and stature to the other orders in the state: a chief in Tahiti is better distinguished by his height and gigantic proportions than any variety of costume; of course there are some few exceptions, but as far back as the missionaries can trace there has existed this difference, and it would almost lead to a conclusion that they spring from a people who were the conquerors and masters of the present lower class of Tahitians. Their traditions however are so imperfect of the time immediately prior to Wallis' arrival, that no light can be thrown on this interesting point. Formerly the distinction of classes was most punctiliously ob-

served; but the introduction of a new religion has very much loosened the bands of order, and at present there are no rigid forms kept up or points of etiquette observed between the higher and lower classes. However the force of custom and the knowledge of dependence make the "manahine" generally obedient to the will of their chiefs. The government also has received a material change; it was an ill-digested chance-made monarchy, in which despotism prevailed, but when Pomarre (the third from the time of Cook,) was an infant, the "hui arii" or nobles, perhaps by the advice of the missionaries, moulded it into a form that gave them more power and left the shadow of authority in the hands of the king. Queen Pomarre is the present apparent possessor, but as she is said to be both foolish and viciously inclined, they have excluded her from any share in the government, and the "hui ariis" who are generally well educated, keen, and sensible men, have the sole direction of affairs.—The mildest of climes has infused its spirit into their criminal code; no crime is punished with death and the severest infliction of their law is banishment to a neighbouring island. The influence of the missionaries in this case, some will say, has been exerted wrongfully, for they persuaded the "hui ariis" to punish treason capitally, but it was so little tolerated, that a very short time after it was instituted in 1826, it was altered to banishment for life.

The present character of the Tahitians is distinguished by nothing good or great; excessive indolence, a great love of ease and pleasure, even tem-

pered, possessed of a natural quickness, but contented to remain in the profoundest ignorance, adepts in cunning, and mean in spirit,—these are the sum of qualities possessed in common by all the lower classes: among the “hui arii” there are many honorable exceptions. It is perhaps wrong to judge their neglect of chastity by our standard, and I am tempted to make some excuse for the poor creatures themselves; in such a climate their blood must run in a warmer channel than the inhabitants of a northern region, and besides, bred up in the exercise and indulgence of every whim and folly,—too debased yet to feel the force of the deep truths of the Gospel,—they account the gratification of their sensual appetites, as granting Nature’s most innocent desires, and so affect not the least restraint, except through fear of the missionaries. There is a punishment fixed to oblige those ladies who wander from the paths of virtue, to repair the public paths and roads about the village; and as labor to the Tahitians is the worst of punishments it has I believe some good effect.

The natives, before our discovery of them adventured more in navigation than we should give them credit for, from their apparent poor means of conveyance. They possessed indeed canoes of a wonderful structure, some being 108 feet long, but none decked over, and from their build, affording little or no protection in an open sea, and liable to fill in the least swell; yet it is certain, that they held constant communication with all the islands in the Society group, and at intervals, it is supposed, with the Marquesas, Friendly, and even the Sand-

wich Islands; for from the authority of a missionary long resident here, they knew of their existence before any foreign vessel had touched at Tahiti, and their tradition had placed them and the Society Islands enclosed by one and the same sky: but when they became acquainted with us, rather than upset their scheme of the Heavens, they insisted that we and other foreigners came from behind this sky.

There is a variety of very excellent timber in this island, among which the “tamanu” a species of myrtle is very valuable: it is a very hard durable wood, and susceptible of the highest polish. Several large boats have been built lately of this tree, and have answered extremely well; they are fitted with sails, and one built by the missionaries half-decked, could not be less than 25 tons. The natives have seen the advantage they possess over canoes, and a few years will see them generally adopted; even now, several chiefs are building, and I think such boats have superseded the building of large canoes, for the largest I saw, was only 60 feet long. There is one thing that must materially assist the native navigator in these seas,—the constancy of the winds: it is only in the months of December, January, and February, they ever have a change, when the North or West winds blow with considerable violence, but are of very short duration. All the year round, the thermometer ranges between 70° and 80°.

We have all in our childhood been frightened with nurses’ tales of the wild man of the woods,—here, there are in reality such creatures, but deserving to be objects of pity instead of alarm. They live in the mountains, not without any apparent

means of subsistence, (for as I have before said there are abundance of fruit at most seasons of the year,) but in solitary wretchedness, without dwellings, without clothes, and without any association with their fellow creatures whose sight they shun, and whose comforts are apparently hateful to them. It has been only chance that has given us the knowledge of their existence: one had been seen in 1821, but they were not able to secure him;—some time after, one was caught and brought to Burder's Point, but nothing could be made out of him, he seemed unable to speak, and was so shy and sulky as to oblige them to let him go again to his wild hills for fear of his starving himself. A missionary relates that he had seen one at "Ateburu," possessing more qualities in common with mankind than the other, for he could speak, but all their endeavours could not persuade him to take any interest in what occurred, or answer any questions concerning his former abode, he would merely ask for what food he wanted, and his look was so quietly vacant that there could be but little doubt that he was an idiot. It is generally supposed that the wild men are the remainder of those poor unfortunates, that in the late war of extermination fled to the hills to escape the certain deaths that awaited the defeated in their savage battles. Thus end my short and cursory observations on the Tahitians.

You will be no doubt surprised at the very different light in which I have viewed this people from Cook, Bligh, &c.; I assure you my astonishment exceeded yours, when after being prepared to meet

people whose courtesy and friendly disposition were set off by the natural and intrinsic polish of their manners,—by the beauties and elegant graces of their females, and by the manly freedom of address of the men; I met women distinguished but by the rudeness and irregularity of their bronzed features and lascivious advances to familiarity, and men awkward and clumsily built, and many, who from indolence of habit, had acquired such a super-abundance of flesh as must make life a burden, and whose professions of civility are followed by the grossest attempts at imposition.

CHAPTER IV.

TRIP TO EIMEO,—RAIATEA,—THE TONGA ISLANDS,
INFLUENCE OF MISSIONARIES.

WHILE lying in this harbour, the captain sent the barge to Eimeo, an island three or four leagues to the westward, and the next in size to Tahiti, for the purpose of surveying a harbour on the West side of it. I was in her, and you will suppose that as we stayed six days, I had a good opportunity of observing the manners and customs of the natives; but my time was so taken up that I am indebted for any information I did gain to the missionaries. Eimeo is subject to Tahiti, and is in every respect similarly governed: it was here that the first royal convert to Christianity was made, in the person of Pomarre, king of Tahiti. I am sorry I know so little of the national history as to be ignorant of the date, but such was the zeal of the new convert that the only stone building in these islands was erected by him as a church for the mission, and the influence of his example so worked on his subjects, that in a year or two, Paganism and all its rites were openly abolished. It was during this time

that a curious but well-authenticated circumstance happened, which we might smile at now, but was then of great importance:—the missionaries in their arduous task of making proselytes used to hold lectures frequently in the open air, in which they invited and encouraged any of their hearers to argue with them on the great truths of Religion; at this time, one of their chiefs stood up and in the course of a long and bitter speech asked them this unanswerable question,—“How is it that you, who daily bring the sun, moon, or stars, down to your level, merely to know the exact spot you stand in, cannot bring God down to decide this question between us, and tell us whether we really do wrong by following the religion of our forefathers?”—Strange to say, this carried such conviction to this simple people that for some time the missionaries lost many of their followers.

I saw one of the morai,³ which though inferior to several in the island served to give me some idea of those abodes of superstition and terror: they are all falling into ruins, and while visited with contempt, still, from their romantic situation and the sombre shade of tamanu—a dark-leaved species of myrtle, and other trees, impress the mind with an indefinable awe. But mine was but a passing glance, and I have not even preserved the name: the next day we returned to the ship, and I was but a few days aboard before we started from Tahiti.

It was a delightful morning when we weighed, but in this climate it hardly deserves notice, for it is seldom otherwise. Our log will shew us how to, off Eimeo, for some hours, and in five days

anchored in Raiatea, one of the cluster of the Society Islands, that were at various distances around us. Here we remained for a week; our departure being deferred till after the celebration of their annual feast on the 11th of May, and I believe few thought the time mispent. The harbour was formed as at Tahiti by reefs of coral, but was more capacious, and had the advantage of a weather and leeward entrance. The huts of the natives straggled along the beach, and as the ground afforded (for the land rose high at their back,) collected themselves into the appearance of a village, and among them the church was conspicuous from the largeness of its proportions. Trees of all kinds were growing in tropical luxuriance, and the land appeared rich and fertile. We had heard that the queen of Tahiti was residing here, and we were proportionately anxious to see her Majesty:—on the second day, the captain went in a sort of state to pay his respects; I was of his suite, and as she had been forewarned of our coming, we found her very inelegantly attired in a silk gown and leghorn hat of the latest Parisian fashion, (a present we afterwards heard⁴ from the missionaries,) which instead of diminishing the defects of a broad bouncing figure and copper-colored negro features, but exposed them the more plainly, and made her an object of ridicule. I will not detain you with an account of the presence chamber, &c. of the palace; however I must say it was a nearer approach to a house than I had seen in the islands, excepting of course the missionaries'. A few days after, I saw the queen dressed in the country fashion, and

I gladly changed my opinion; a delicate piece of the whitest tappa was thrown loosely over her person, and her unaffected movements were a strong contrast to the awkward shuffling gait she had used when in state; her eyes too instead of being constantly fixed on the ground glanced on all indifferently, and bespoke much animation and expression. In conversation by an interpreter, she pretended great offence at the character we had heard of her, for Mr. Williams the resident missionary had industriously informed her, with a view of shaming her into some propriety of behaviour.—And during our stay here, the queen's own conduct was very correct, but her female attendants (an example, by the way, of "the iniquity of palaces" even in this secluded spot,) were the only seeming prostitutes in the island.

The next day the feast took place, and all that could be spared were on shore to witness it; we landed at 11 o'clock and passing through the village, where all were dressed in their gayest apparel on motion for the church, we entered the simple neat but capacious building bearing that name;—high back benches were ranged on all sides, and the wooden floor neatly covered with mats. The women sat apart from the men, and all appeared propriety and attention. I could not understand the discourse of the missionary, but it seemed to have much influence; and I left the church in good humour with the people, and disposed to find them both more religious and more civilized than their neighbours the Tahitians. Such I found afterwards to be the case:—possessed of the same kind, eas

and inoffensive disposition as the Tahitians, they have fortunately not been subjected to the temptations, arising from the confluence of so many vessels in their ports, bearing with them the vices of every country, and introducing that worst of all—the love of liquor. Missionaries have done much there, but this evil, I am afraid, still gains ground in spite of them: here, on the contrary, as I have myself observed, few will even touch spirits,—none take them to excess. I have no doubt much of this, is owing to the influence Mr. Williams individually possesses over them; and he is so shrewd and sensible that he will make it permanent, by continuing the worthy and hitherto constant exertions of a mind seemingly entirely devoted to the advancement of religion. He is the mainspring to every movement, and to mention a circumstance you would hardly think credible in the short time that Christianity has been introduced here, he has organized a general association of the chiefs of this and an adjacent island, for the propagation of Christianity, and has already sent missionaries to the neighbouring Pagan islands.

But to return to my narrative:—From the church we adjourned to the king's house, before which we beheld all the preparations for a grand feast; all had brought hither their store, and every article of food was piled up promiscuously on the numerous rough hewn tables, that were placed on all sides of the court yard. It was not intended that we should taste this good fare; a greater honour awaited us:—we dined with the queen, king, and their suite. The dinner was spread *a l' Anglais*, it consisted of

roast beef, fowls, three baked pigs, yams, sweet potatoes and tarro,⁵ and two puddings, one made of bananas, the other of arrow-root and cocoa nut, and I can add we did justice to all. They have a strange custom of never conversing while eating, which to us appeared repulsive and disagreeable, but subsequent experience made us remark that it prevails through all the South Sea Islands. After we had loitered about the booths, and heard two or three speeches recited from a three-legged stool, (which I understood also to be a custom at their feasts, and in which all sorts of subjects are introduced,) we returned to the church and witnessed a highly animated scene, but which, from my not understanding a word of the language, lost half its value;—it was a debate on some resolutions relating to the regulation of their infant Society;—habited in their native dress, consisting of a fine mat pauncho thrown over their shoulders and another mat tied round the middle, the chiefs formed a peculiar and interesting sight: each rose in succession and spoke for or against every resolution, which from the vivacity and quickness of their action and manner could not fail to be interesting. The remainder of the evening was consumed in loitering about the village, bartering for tappa and other curiosities, and at an early hour we went on board.

The natives of these islands are all very fond of bathing, particularly in fresh water: here the supply of that essential comfort is constant but small, and the only bathing place is formed by damming the course of a rivulet. We strolled there one evening and found the queen and several young women

bathing; they were all dressed in tappa, and altho' the water was extremely muddy and dirty, the queen leading the way, plunged through it, and they all continued this for more than ten minutes, much to our amusement, and it seemed to their's also. Here we however left them, delicate of intruding too far.

I have made use of the term king as it is applied here, but in reality it is a misnomer, for he possesses no authority over any of the chiefs, and is himself but the man possessed of the most property in the island, and highest in their rank of chiefs. We left this island on the 12th of May and "onward ploughed our western course" to the Tonga Islands. We had taken a native of these islands on board at Tahiti, who we found extremely useful in threading the dangerous shoals and coral reefs that lay on all sides of us as we approached the islands, and arrived safely at an anchorage on the 22nd of May, off the village of Nicolofoa.

The island of Tonga itself is very low, the tops of the cocoa nut trees were the first indications we had of the land; in fact the hillock at Nicolofoa, the highest spot in the island, is but 45 feet above the level of the sea. Eoa, an island lying S. E. of Tonga, on the contrary is a moderate height, for which reason, vessels trading to this group always endeavour to make it. We had hardly dropt our anchor before we were surrounded by the natives in canoes, bringing fruits and provisions. They seemed to know the value of money, but having no use for it, only required in exchange for their native productions a few beads, or at most a knife.

Their appearance was very striking, the wildness of their eye, the vehemence of action, and loudness of tone,—their long black hair streaming in the wind, and only one strip of tappa round their middle,—recalled to our minds the inhabitants of Easter Island, in all the wildness of their untamed savage character. Further acquaintance with them proved how much we were mistaken, and how little we ought to trust to first sight.

We found a whaler lying here, which sold us some beads, as our stock was nearly exhausted;—and a brisk traffic was immediately commenced: for the natives, blessed by Providence with all the necessaries of life, set value only on the most trifling articles. The missionaries are settled in Nicolofoa, and although somewhat different in their principles to those at Tahiti, being Baptists, seem steadily to pursue the same praise-worthy object. Christianity was first propagated by the Tahitians about six years ago; under their hands, its converts fast increased, and although it has received several severe checks,—with the assistance of the two Englishmen sent by the Baptist Mission, it is working its way silently but surely among the natives, and can reckon more than 300 professed adherents. The elected king of Tonga is a Christian, but his authority is so small, that our religion will have to trust entirely to its intrinsic merit in making converts.

Tonga is divided into several provinces, each of which has its independent chieftain; but one, elected by his fellows, is nominally king of the whole island. Nicolofoa, off which we were anchored, is

the king's hereditary province, and the greater part of his subjects are Christians; but in the other parts, Paganism takes precisely the form described in "Mariner's Tonga Islands." The island is said to contain 16,000 inhabitants, therefore the Pagans form an immense part of the community; and to their honor be it said, that they are divested of bigotry and intolerance, escaping a Christian's most besetting sins. The greatest good-will exists between the sects, and even an Englishman living among the Pagans, and making no secret of his horror at their bloody rites, is not noticed to his disadvantage. A young man, by name James Read, the adopted son of the most powerful Pagan chief in the island, called Fatou, told me that they often hold "Molai" or public assemblies in which our religion forms frequently the engrossing topic.—Fatou, after railing at the absurdity of the Christian faith, turns to Read for his opinion: with the hopes of converting his protector and friend, Read commences with great earnestness and good-will; but on all sides they pour on him such keen raillery, that losing all command of his temper, he quarrels with the chief and leaves the assembly. Perhaps for one day or more he will not speak to Fatou, but the latter is however always so anxious to make it up again, that he even visits him in his own house,—explains the offence away, and shews such kindness that it would be impossible to retain enmity.

I was on shore three or four times, and walked a good deal, generally with a gun over my shoulder: I fell in with a great variety of birds, such as pigeons, doves, ducks, landrails, cuckoos, and the vampire

bat, which I had never before seen and is deserving of some notice. I do not pretend to give a description of it, but will note one or two singularities that struck my attention. It is about eight inches in length; the body emits a most unpleasant smell, and is covered with fur of a reddish color; its head is in miniature like that of a fox and its mouth well furnished with sharp teeth; the wings are exactly those of a bat, with claws at the extremity, by which it suspends itself while sleeping in a most peculiar manner from the branches of trees, looking like dead leaves: they are very numerous in this island, and live entirely on fruit, and desert the night-strolling habits of the common bats for the more genial one of basking in the sunshine. We shot several, but I did not preserve a specimen.

I was much surprized, considering the length of time this island must have been inhabited, and the smallness of its size, that not more than half the land was cultivated; on every hand we met with large woods, matted by innumerable creepers, and impervious to the sun's rays, flourishing in most exuberant wildness and fairy like beauty of foliage, only threaded by small footpaths winding amongst the roots of trees, through which we were often obliged to go on our hands and knees. Not the semblance of a hill is to be seen, but here and there, peeping through groves of cocoa nut and bread-fruit, we meet with the huts of the natives, scattered irregularly over the country in groups of three or four,—a neat grass plot before their dwellings, and gardens of bananas, fenced by a network of reeds adjoining. Inside, the floor is covered by mats, and the prim

appearance of its pretty inmates, dressed modestly in the tappa of the country, quite delighted us; while the air of cleanliness and attention to comfort, perceivable in every house, more particularly took our attention, as so different from all we had before seen in the South Seas. The natives are more ingenious and industrious than the Tahitians, and although so many are Pagans, on the whole they are far more civilized. Their canoes shew considerable knowledge of mechanics; indeed, one that I saw, a double war canoe, shewed great skill. I regret to say I did not take its dimensions, but it was certainly more than 80 feet in length, and the carpentering work was beautifully executed.

We left this island on the 2nd of June, with regret at the necessary shortness of our acquaintance with its inhabitants. Their character and dispositions pleased us much:—with less levity than their neighbours of Tahiti, they possess more simplicity, and though blessed with the same delightful warmth of climate, and a country yielding the finest fruit without culture, they escape the enervating effects of unlimited indulgence, and their energy and activity direct them to various employments, among which the cultivation of the ground and the embellishment of their dwelling houses, stand first. I have said before that there is much waste land, but every hut has its garden and plantation, laid out with taste, carefully inclosed, and from its productiveness shewing the goodness of its culture.—Everywhere we perceived the greatest attention to neatness, cleanliness, and comfort—all so endearing to an Englishman; and the modesty and gentle

behaviour of the women,—the independency and uprightness of the men placed them far above the other inhabitants of the South Seas.

One morning, three of us were on shore earlier than usual; our steps were naturally directed to the king's house for a guide: our path led through a narrow lane, from whose overhanging thickets we brought the dew in showers, and startled from its branches the little songsters that had but commenced their morning lay. We met groups of natives bringing their little store of war clubs, spears, &c. for traffic; our hearts were light, and our mirth and admiration were not a little excited by the beauty of their females, when at an abrupt turning we came to the king's house; being only an open shed built for his war canoes, and temporarily occupied by himself to be near our ship, we were at once in sight of the inmates. Instantly the ready smile was checked and all looked grave as we approached the new and impressive scene that presented itself:—the king and four natives were kneeling on the ground, with their hands clasped before them, gravely and attentively listening (for their eyes did not even wander when we appeared) to the morning prayers, recited by the native who had been our pilot. I stood on one side, but not without reflection on the lesson here given by a half-taught savage, and some painful sensations arose from my neglect of a duty, which ought to me to be so much more sacred. The prayer was done,—the king, with native dignity, made us welcome, gave us a guide, and we sallied forth to the amusements of the day.

CHAPTER V.

SHIPWRECK AND SUBSEQUENT ADVENTURES OF JAMES READ.

THREE days before we left this harbour, we discovered the desertion of one of our men, and Captain Waldegrave not wishing to leave him behind, was obliged to use what appeared very harsh measures to force the chiefs to interest themselves sufficiently to have him brought back. Knowing that James Read, whose name I have before mentioned, was much loved and respected by the chief Fatou,—he sent for him, and told him he must be detained on board till the deserter was restored. The poor man declared solemnly he knew nothing of it, and exclaimed bitterly against the injustice of being forcibly kept from his wife—his family—and his home: seeing the captain determined, he however sent immediately to inform Fatou of the circumstance, and the old chief made such exertions that on the third day the deserter was brought back—and Fatou came instantly on board to claim his son. The meeting was mutually affectionate, and a handsome present from the captain healed all

sores, and they both left us in perfect good humour. It was one of these nights, that I had the first watch, and observing the young man walking the deck in solitary wretchedness, I drew near and entered into conversation with him, and he doubly repaid me for the attention by frankly relating to me the mournful tale of his shipwreck and subsequent history. It sped the watch away, and so occupied my thoughts, that I entered it in my journal the next morning, if not with the same words, at least with the same sentiments:—

In 1820,—being on board the Sirius whaler, Captain Lancaster, after some little success in fishing, and touching at Navigator's Islands, we directed our course for some whaling ground to the southward of Tongataboo; beset with fogs and calms, on the sixth day we had made but little progress, when a breeze springing up from the eastward, we made all sail, and the water foamed at our bows as we sped swiftly before it. We had been deprived of the advantage of an observation, from the denseness of the fog, and were forced to trust entirely to our dead reckoning, which gave us a distance of more than a hundred miles from any of the Tonga Islands. In the evening, the sun set in all that burst of beautiful red so transient and so peculiar to the tropics, and we had staid up late talking over those recollections it so frequently awakens, when we were roused by the deep voice of the "look out" exclaiming—"A light a-head." While puzzled with conjectures as to the nature of it, being much higher than the mast head of a ship, we were ap-

palled with the cry of—"Breakers on the starboard bow:"—we hauled our wind instantly, and conceiving from the continuance of the light that it must be the volcano of Tofoa, one of the Tonga Islands, around which were many reefs and shoals of most dangerous character, not laid down in our charts, we shortened all sail and hove to, trusting to a good look out to avoid these various dangers.

We had been hove to hardly two hours, when the cry of—"Breakers under our lee"—roused all hands to instant exertion: we made sail and tacked, hoping to weather them, but from the lightness of the wind we found ourselves drifting silently towards the danger, and our water shoaling suddenly, we as a last resource let go our anchor. It most fortunately brought us up: after lowering the sails and seeing all secure, for a few hours we indulged in a sound repose; for—careless of life from constant exposure to every peril, little recks the sailor of the future, let him but escape the present evil.—When the day broke, we were roused, and found ourselves every way surrounded by reefs and shoals,—our rudder not six inches from a sunken coral rock, (though we had let go our anchor in sixteen fathoms,) and a low island seemingly uninhabited not more than a quarter of a mile from us. With these dangers yawning around us, we did not waste our time in idle repining, but guided by the experienced hand of the captain, (a man much respected by us all,) manfully tried to avoid them, and better our condition. Our boats were got out, and hands placed in them to keep them clear of the ship; we worked stoutly at the capstan, and in a

few minutes had the anchor "up and down," when, heaving with all our strength to rise it from its bed of coral, the messenger parted and the cable ran out to the clinch. The boats were manned, but notwithstanding our exertions to tow our ship a-head, she silently and rapidly went astern, aided by a light breeze blowing directly on the reef: in another minute we struck, and with such force as to start our sternpost; the water rushed in in torrents, and every succeeding wave beating over us bore us farther on the reef. Water-logged as she was, from this moment we gave up all hopes of saving the vessel;—but the boats having, although with much danger, come alongside, we proceeded to load them with what provision we could get at, and the stores requisite for our forlorn situation, among which were cutlasses, muskets, pistols, and our magazine of powder. Heaven seemed to view us with a pitying eye, for it fell a start calm, and although the constant heaving of the ship on the reefs,—torn and trembling as she was, threatened us with immediate destruction, we still cherished hopes, as we had succeeded so far, of landing most of our valuable stores.

We succeeded beyond our expectations, for on landing we found the water so smooth, that every thing was got ashore in safety and we made repeated trips to our poor stranded vessel. This occupied us till night, when having rigged a tent, we consigned ourselves to slumber;—to me all appeared a dream. Twenty-four hours back I had been enjoying the comforts of what was to me at sea from my earliest childhood my home, and now I was a

shipwrecked boy—on a desert island, surrounded by sad faces and sadder forebodings; and yet so perfectly reckless and careless was I, that I never enjoyed a night's rest more, and had kept up such a ceaseless prattle of good humour, that was only silenced by a good beating from one of my shipmates. The next morning, invigorated by our sleep, harmony was soon restored, and although it had blown so fresh that the ship which was still seen among the breakers could not be approached, we allowed not that to depress our spirits, but turned our thoughts busily to remedy our evils. With the wreck of the ship, the captain had lost all claim to authority; although we were still much guided by his wisdom and experience, all gave their opinion and many plans were started, but to be abandoned: however at last we resolved to open (if possible) a communication with the natives of the surrounding islands, who by all the previous voyagers were esteemed so highly as to receive the appellation of "the Friendly." So sanguine were we all of the success of this plan, that when two of the only three boats we had were to be sent on the morrow, every body wished to go; however, six only were allowed in each boat with the second and third mate: I was of the party in the same boat as the second mate.

At break of day we started, and favored with a calm and beautiful morning we pulled for Annamooka, the nearest of the islands that lay scattered in groups on the horizon, in some places only appearing as a wood of cocoa nut trees, rising as it were from the bosom of the ocean. As we approached the island we observed the beach crowded with

natives, and although their favorable deportment and the accounts we heard previously of their hospitality and kindness had prepossessed us so much in their favor, it was resolved as a caution that one boat should land first,—sound their feelings, and act accordingly. Our boat pulled in, and from the eagerness with which the inhabitants ran to receive us, bearing all kinds of fruit and refreshment in their hands, we hesitated not to land, and were nigh overwhelmed with their noisy welcomes,—expressed in a jargon unintelligible to us, but accompanied by an animation and sparkling of the eye that could not be mistaken:—conceiving ourselves quite safe, and that now at least there was no farther occasion for a caution which might lead to a decrease of their friendship and confidence, the second mate made signs for the other boat to pull in, and we were joined by them in a few minutes.

The natives assisted in hauling the boats on the beach, and leaving a hand by each, we committed ourselves to their guidance and were soon on our way for the interior of the island, threading our path through delightful groves of the cocoa nut and bread-fruit, interwoven with thick bushes of ten or twelve feet high, overhanging us on every side.—Surrounded by natives, I found myself imperceptibly divided from my companions, and thinking my own laziness to be the cause of it, I quickened my pace: at the same moment my arm was siezed by a hand of iron, and looking round I found those faces that till now wore nought but smiles,—scowling in all the darkness and malignity of their savage nature. The change was such, that horror-struck,

I felt all hope die within me; and thinking of the miseries of a death amongst cannibals, I answered the withering glance of the dark gloomy man that held me with the humblest obeisance, and following his motions—walked slowly to a hut, which I now descried peeping between the trees.

It was a delightful spot, and although at that moment I was not able to remark its beauty, some time after, when circumstances were altered, I used fondly to dwell on every part of the scene. The huts with their low thatch spreading to the ground,—their neat inclosure of reed and the smooth patch of grass in front of each might have only drawn a passing remark on their attention to comfort and cleanliness; but the very disorder in which they were placed,—each peeping from its grove of rich verdant foliage, while one spot was left alone to the shadow and control of a magnificent wide-spreading tree, that clothed in the sombre green of our English oak stood majestically in the midst,—set a stamp of grandeur and interest on the whole, to my eyes hardly ever equalled.

Here my conductor let me stand, while consulting with the surrounding natives, and I thought I could distinguish some of my shipmates in like manner surrounded, but on my offering to move I was so unceremoniously dragged back, that I did not repeat it. He now led the way into a neighbouring hut, and following his example I squatted on a mat which covered the whole floor; and by the doubtful light let in from under the low roof, I found myself seated by an elderly woman, enveloped in the tappa of the country, who seemed to

view me with no less surprize than pleasure. After some unintelligible conversation with my conductor she took me by the hand, and placing some myoree or bread-fruit before me, made signs for me to eat. Now, though naturally possessed of a very good appetite, so many disagreeable forebodings pressed on my mind, that I with great difficulty managed to swallow two or three small pieces; my conductor who watched my every movement, when I had finished, impatiently motioned me to follow him. Feeling an anxiety that, little skilled in disguising my sentiments at any time, must have appeared outwardly, notwithstanding all my endeavours to the contrary, I hesitated; he sprung towards me, and was dragging me out of the hut, when my hostess interfered and in a few words seemed to entreat a favor,—he refused, but at last tired with her importunities seemed to consent: and I believe to her I am indebted for my being now alive to relate this. For some time afterwards I learnt, that from policy or fear they had determined to put us all to death immediately after our landing, and it was most probable my conductor had intended that fate for me, if he had not been prevented as I have just informed you.

We proceeded through the same wood to the beach, where the first thing that struck my astonished sight was the third mate, lying apparently lifeless with a deep gash on his head and bathed in blood:—horror-struck I sprang forwards, and leaning over him called his name. Roused from his stupor, his glazed eye partially lighted up as it rested on my features, and struggling against the speedy

ebb of life, he murmured these few broken words,—"I am dying, give all you have—your clothes: or you share my fate:—my—" A rattling was in his throat, I watched, but he was gone: his kind spirit had departed in this last endeavour to do me service. I turned to my conductor,—his eye was fixed on me in all the gloating of his diabolical nature; with a hideous grin he seized my arm and drew me forcibly away. With my poor shipmate's fate before my eyes, I began stripping my clothes off and tendering them to him, but he motioned me to put them on and follow.

We returned by the beach, and passing by the boats,—my thoughts dwelling intently on the scene just described, with most unpleasant forebodings of my own likely fate,—I nearly stumbled over the mangled dead bodies of two others of my shipmates. I hurried by, expecting every moment to share the same fate, but it did not seem his intention to kill me: content with the horror I evidently showed he led me direct to the "mooa" or village, and I felt somewhat relieved when welcomed at his hut by the smiling countenance of the old woman. I now by signs expressed my earnest wish to get rid of my clothes, which my protectress assisted me in, and gave me in exchange a dress of tappa, which consisted only of one large mantle, covering the whole body, and tied round the waist with a neat mat belt; at will, the upper part could be drawn over the shoulders or turned back over the waistband, leaving the upper part of the body uncovered and showing as it might be to advantage the manly and fine-turned limbs of the wearer. Night now

came on, but with them it required no preparation: the mat we sat on served for a bed, a log of polished wood for a pillow, and the ample folds of the tappa covering them entirely served as bed-clothes.—Before lying down, some cold baked yam and cocoa nut was produced, of which having eaten sparingly, I gladly threw myself full length on the mat, and harrassed and tired by the events of the day, soon fell into a sound sleep, from which I was not roused till the rays of the rising sun shone on me through the sides of the house.

My host was out, and feeling myself under less restraint in my new dress, I cautiously looked out on the scene around the cottage; all was life and animation. I felt half-resigned to my fate, in witnessing the many happy faces that passed before me: it was but momentary,—and as the dread thoughts of my hopeless situation,—the scenes of yesterday,—the veil that hung over the fate of the remainder of our devoted crew—flashed across my mind, I sank on the ground overwhelmed with my feelings.

From this stupor I was roused by my benevolent hostess, who wished me to join her in a substantial meal, consisting of yam, bread-fruit, and raw fish: the latter she eat with the greatest relish, and disgusted me so much that I made but a poor meal;—although now, so tyrannical is custom, I eat it thus in preference to any other way of cooking it, only give me salt water as a sauce. My host now joined us and signified his intention for me to follow him: he led the way through a luxuriant labyrinth of foliage, each intrusive step calling down a shower

of dew from the overhanging branches; when falling into a narrow path leading by a banana plantation, he brought me to a clear space, where following the direction of his eye, I perceived under a large tree apparently the dead body of one of my own countrymen. Oppressed with anxiety, I sprang towards it. What were my feelings?—when in the naked bleeding body before me I recognised the friend of my youth and helplessness,—my second father—the mate who had been so kind to me ever since I came to sea. There was a rope round his neck and his face was blackened as if from strangling, but on examining attentively I thought he breathed. In despair I turned to my conductor, who was viewing me with something like compassion, and made signs for water: to my surprise he ran off for some and soon returned with a gourd full; and even assisted me in bathing and washing the wounds and begrimed features of the still senseless man. In a few seconds, he showed signs of returning animation, and opening his eyes he perceived me; it gave him new life:—a faint squeeze of the hand and his raising himself partly from the ground gave me hopes that it was only the loss of blood that had weakened him so much, and that soon I might possibly, by moving the pity of these people, nurse him into health.

Whilst thus employed, some natives gathered around and showed evidently by signs their wish to assist me: necessity forced me to trust to them; they raised my poor friend from the ground and carried him to a neighbouring hut,—where, strange to say, the people that had so lately tormented and

nearly killed him were the most attentive to his wants, clothed him with tappa, gave him both to eat and drink, and having his own strong constitution to back them, in six days made him quite a new man. During that time I lived with my old female friend who took every opportunity of teaching me their language, and I already began to understand them, but with all my endeavours could discover no traces of my unfortunate companions. My enquiries were now met with kindness, but constant refusal; the natives treated me as one of themselves, and vied with each other in doing me kind offices. My friend was now recovered, (he also had picked up a little of the language,) and the natives who had witnessed our first meeting called us “father” and “son;” we favored the mistake, and emboldened by the great difference observable in their manner, we tried to make them understand our wish to communicate with our shipmates we had left on the island.

They entered into our plans with great alacrity, and two young men even offered with seeming delight to take one of us over in a canoe; the mate agreed to go, and they started early the next morning and were not back till night, when I found fresh cause to mourn the extreme duplicity of the natives. In a few words he told me the horrid truth,—He had arrived at the island and finding no one to welcome him, he ran to the tent which was still standing; and pushing the screen on one side,—What a sight presented itself!—the lifeless bodies of the captain and two others lay drenched in blood on the ground, partially stripped and shockingly

mutilated. Unable to account for this unlooked for welcome, he turned to the natives who had followed for an explanation, but encountered such a sneer and smile of triumph that he could not mistake the authors. Feeling all the passion without the power of revenge,—resigned to the worst that might happen,—he commenced doing the last honors to his departed shipmates: with a piece of iron he found in one corner of the tent, he made them a shallow grave,—and the two natives who had observed him with interest, guessing his designs, now brought the three bodies and placed them therein, and following his example heaped stones and dirt over them. His surprise was great at such a contradiction in their behaviour,—but he could not bring himself to speak to the supposed murderers, and while they sat down to some cold baked yam and pork, he sullenly betook himself to search for the traces of the remainder of the unfortunate crew. He found that the remaining boat was gone, but whether taken by themselves or the natives he could not discover, although he was certain they were all off the island. It was now late, and he returned to the canoe;—the natives welcomed him with gladness and soon paddled him back to Annamooka.

Lost in conjecture, with sad hearts we reflected on the dreadful uncertainty of our own lives among such barbarians: although now treated so well,—the caprice of a moment might sacrifice us. This led us to devise some means of escape, but it was all in vain; for while we were watching with eagerness every chance, some chiefs arrived from Le-

fooga, a large neighbouring island, and after a stay of two days took us back with them, and a great quantity of provision which they exacted from the islanders. I found out afterwards that the island was their estate, and the rent was paid to them in kind at stated times, and by their laws the chiefs had a right to all the prisoners made by their people.

On arriving at Lefooga, it was my hard lot to be parted from my friend the mate; he was taken to one of the neighbouring islands, and for months I saw nothing of him. The chief into whose hands I had fallen took a great liking to me, adopted me as his son, and treated me with such attention, as well nigh to reconcile me to my new mode of life. In a month I had made great progress in speaking the language, and my enquiries were anxiously made to penetrate the mystery that hung over the fate of my comrades on the desert island of Namooka Hagi, which was the name of the island off which we had been wrecked. A stout, well-built, active young man, whose eye sparkled with unusual fire, and about whose features there was a compressed fierceness that at an earlier period would have startled me, avowed himself as acquainted with the whole affair, and to be one of the attacking party on my poor shipmates. With little difficulty I persuaded him to relate a circumstance which reflected so much honor on himself and raised him proportionably high in the estimation of his countrymen, the substance of which was as follows:—

The day after the two boats landed on Annamooka, the natives it seems had discovered there were more

white men on Namooka Hagi; and conjecturing they were in distress from picking up pieces of the wreck of the vessel,—a crafty spirit of enterprise tempted four daring young men to hazard their lives on the chance of a dark, deep, and cruel stratagem. Unknown to every one,—in the true spirit of Indian warfare, they before the break of day loaded a canoe with plantains and cocoa nuts and paddled swiftly for the island: here they landed quite unarmed, and loaded with the produce of their canoe proceeded towards the tent. The captain met them alone,—the crew being thus early repairing the only remaining boat at another part of the island,—and willingly accepted their offered yams and plantains, from a wish to cultivate a good understanding—so much his object in the present state of affairs. At this time (as I learnt some years after,) although anxious for the two boats he had sent, he would not allow any suspicion of treachery to cross his mind: for as he told every body he was sure they would return to day, the appearance of these natives confirmed him in his opinion and raised his spirits. Desirous then of repaying them for their fruit, he invited them into the tent, gave them some trifling presents, and willingly gratified their curiosity by showing and explaining the use of the many different articles they saw strewed about the floor.

While thus engaged, two of the four slipped out and proceeded to manufacture arms by breaking some branches from the trees in a neighbouring jungle and shaping them into rude clubs. They were observed doing this (as I heard many years

after,) by one of the crew—a cooper who had been in these seas before, who guessed their intentions from experience in their uniform duplicity; he instantly informed the captain of his suspicions, and earnestly begged him to arm himself and be on his guard. It was to no purpose; the captain would not listen to what he called such paltry counsel, and pointing with a smile to the two natives who with childish pleasure were beating an old drum in one corner of the tent,—“Has that (says he) the appearance of treachery.” The cooper himself half convinced, returned to his work; as he left, the other two natives returned. The captain now proceeded to show a cutlass which he took from its scabbard and flourished about, exposing the brightness of its blade. To show, I suppose, his entire confidence in them, he placed it in their hands: it was most misplaced. The young savage who told me the tale now had it,—although leaning carelessly against a cask, his eye had watched every motion of the captain:—springing with the speed of an arrow from his lazy posture, he dealt a blow that cleft his head nearly asunder:—one piercing cry and all was over; the captain lay at their feet weltering in his gore.

The work of destruction was commenced, and they had no time to lose; on leaving the tent they surprised the cooper and cook, both of whom they killed with their clubs; and leaving them ran towards the beach in search of the remainder of the crew. Here their daring was disappointed:—one of the men, it seems, had escaped while they were murdering the poor cooper, and running to his ship-

mates, told the dreadful tale, exaggerated by his fears, of 20 or 30 savages being on the island, and committing every enormity. It struck them with horror and dismay, and consulting only their extreme terror, on the instant they launched the boat and all getting on board shoved her out to sea; committing themselves to the mercy of the waves with no provisions or arms and only one oar. The natives on their arrival immediately after added to their alarm by frightful yells and showers of stones, but favored by a breeze they were already out of their reach. After watching the boat till it was more than a mile from the land, the natives returned, and according to the custom of the country mutilated the dead bodies; then, loading themselves with the choicest of the spoil, earned by their daring valour and treachery, they launched their canoe and paddled back to their friends. It was late in the evening, but when their story was known the whole island was alive, and welcomed their young heroes with the dance and many a bowl of cava.⁶ At day-break the next morning, every canoe was put into requisition and an indiscriminate plunder took place of all the stores left on the island.

Four days afterwards, the boat with these unfortunates was picked up at sea by some of the fishing canoes: they were 14 in number, had suffered much from hunger and were reduced to the greatest distress. The natives, satiated with the spoil that they had obtained, treated them with humanity and sustained them till able to leave the islands. Somewhat relieved by this account which I picked up, I still found that out of our whole crew of 30 men,

including the captain and mates, 13 had met with their death from the cruelty of the natives.

After this, you will readily suppose that I earnestly endeavoured to get away:—I did so, but months passed away without any certain means offering, and insensibly I became reconciled to my new fortunes. Every day gave me a better insight into their manners and customs, and despite the remembrance of my recent injuries, I saw so many redeeming good qualities, as to work an entire change in my opinions. In the course of twelve months, I had found many both to esteem and love, among the first of whom I would reckon my adopted father, and I no longer (since I had acquired my full liberty,) thought of leaving them. It is now six years ago; and though I have twice left to indulge a whim, I have most gladly returned to a mode of life which has become so natural and so pleasant. I am now living in Tonga, patronized by a chief called Fatou, who has adopted me as his son,—married me to his daughter, and given me a house to live in and land to cultivate: I have also three children, to whose education my life is devoted, and with God's blessing I hope to bring them up, a little removed from the Paganism in which all around are involved.—

Thus ended an account which to me was replete with interest, seeing as I did around me the scenes and people of which he spoke;—but to others it may perhaps be dull and wearisome.

I did not see James Read again;—he had been too much startled to make his appearance near our

ship: but the missionaries who knew him gave him the character of being a useful and rather intelligent young man. They mentioned that he conducted the bartering between the whalers and the natives, regulating the prices, &c. with much judgment and honesty. His friend the mate left the island, as soon as he had obtained his liberty, refusing all their persuasion to remain and settle among them.

CHAPTER V.

VAVAOO,—ENTERTAINMENT BY FENOOU,—THE FIGI DANCERS, ETC.

THE captain having persuaded one of the king's near relatives to act as pilot, he determined on visiting "Vavaoo," another island of the Friendly group; and interesting to us as being the scene of "Mariner's" adventures. It perhaps has not fallen to your lot to see the book of which I speak, and I cannot answer for its being worth reading, altho' we have consulted it since we have been here frequently with advantage. Our judgment has led us to conclude it written with considerable exaggeration and its characters coloured to the height of Homer's heroes, instead of the simple poor but sagacious savage, halting alternately between grandeur of soul and meanness of action. Yet let me add, that his leading incidents are true, and the only difference between our observation and his narrative is, that our matter-of fact bareness precludes all colouring, while his subjects mellowed by distance receive a warmth and richness of drapery

from the impulse of an imagination glowing with kindly feelings and recollections of the past.

On the 2nd of June we sailed from Tonga, and passing by the volcanic island of Tofoa and other small islands, on the third day we worked the ship, by the assistance of our pilot Taboutoutai, into a magnificent well-sheltered harbour, completely land-locked; but so deep was the water, that we were forced to anchor in 45 fathoms. At this place, which had never been visited by a man of war before,—and where only two years back, a whaler, called the Elizabeth, had been forcibly taken possession of, and only rescued by the valour of the men after the captain and one mate had been killed,—Captain W. had rather a difficult game to play. The king Fenou was suspected, at least, of having connived at the attack on the Elizabeth;—for his crafty daring spirit and his unlimited authority have given him power to do much harm. However as it miscarried, Fenou has strenuously denied having any concern in it.

The sight of our frigate evidently intimidated them, but the captain whose wish was to conciliate, succeeded to admiration in dispelling their fears, and cementing with Fenou a cordial understanding. Our pilot Taboutoutai, who is also a near relation to this king, and Brown, an Englishman wrecked in the “Port au Prince” 24 years ago, and now seemingly prime minister to Fenou, were the chief persons concerned; and as they could not persuade Fenou to come on board first, Captain W. on Monday went with all due form in the barge and attendant boats up to the town,—and giving Brown notice of his

intention, unarmed, paid the king a visit. He found Fenou seated on his heels, surrounded by the principal chiefs in a large open shed, and hundreds of the people around:—the cava was ready mixed,⁷ and a cup presented to the captain which he refused, and desired, by Brown, that every thing should be settled or he would not remain a moment. This set them all to work, consulting one with another, and a debate of a few moments brought it to a conclusion that pleased all parties, and the captain no longer hesitated to share their hospitality, although all his politeness could not persuade him to drink the cava, the taste being so nauseous.

The captain having accepted Fenou's invitation to remain on shore that night sent all his boats aboard with the exception of the cutter, the crew of which with myself were ordered up to the fortress or strong hold where Fenou resided. We followed a guide up the steep side of a hill, whose only claim to the name of a fortress, were several wide trenches now half filled with earth, girding it around. On its broad top stood the houses of the king and his subjects, amid groves of the cocoa nut tree; Fenou's hut was small, and differed but from the rest in having a very handsome mat the whole width of the house, on which he received us and invited us to be seated. Dressed in the tappa of his country, Fenou struck me as possessing a countenance open and expressive of much sense, eyes large and animated, a forehead high and expansive, and a mouth though larger and thicker lipped than an European, not vulgarly so, and often lighted by a really sweet smile which shewed to advantage an admirable set of teeth:

—near him sat Brown, who was the interpreter to the many complimentary and inquisitive questions made by us to His Majesty. After sitting in this manner some time, I took a stroll through the village, and going into the king's brother's house was amused for nearly an hour by the dance of a party of the Figis, whose motions were ugly and uncouth, but in admirable time to the clapping of the hands of all the audience.

The Figis are inhabitants of a group of islands surrounded by most dangerous reefs, to the westward of the Friendly group, and are generally classed by geographers among the offspring of the Ethiopians. Those I saw were tall, large boned, but awkwardly built,—nearly black, with short curly woollen hair, and their features though large and irregular were not charged with the prominent characteristics of their negro brethren of Africa. Their dress was singularly fantastic, for while they carefully blacked every part of their body, they wore round their head in the manner of an elegant turban some of the whitest and most delicate tappa I ever saw. It is strange that this people, inferior in all but ingenuity to the natives of the Friendly Islands, and addicted to the most shocking vices,—among whom cannibalism is openly professed, are so much respected and valued by the latter,—that a young chief's education is not considered finished (if I may be allowed the expression,) without his having visited the Figis, and engaged as a volunteer in some of the constant wars they have among themselves. The present king's brother is half a Figi man, and has passed much time there: he brought over the natives I saw, and indeed

always keeps some about him;—maintaining them in their idleness, till occasion serves to make use of their fierce relentless dispositions. I saw several curious specimens of the Figi pottery but did not succeed in collecting any; I was more fortunate in some of their war clubs, &c. but I doubt whether they will ever reach England, as I have no convenience for keeping them.

But to return from this digression,—In the course of an hour I found myself again at the king's house, and without any material alteration we had dinner served, as it had been done to Captain Cook half a century ago in these islands. First appeared the worthy tribe of cooks who in solemn march brought to our presence a baked pig and its accompaniment of yams, &c.;—this placed before the king was soon cut up by a person who by the flourishing of his weapon seemed to take much pride in the office;—it was then presented to us on clean green plantain leaves to choose our portion, and after the same ceremony had been observed to some of the chiefs, was given to our men, and the many hangers-on that haunt the door of princes' palaces. Our acquaintance with these islands and an appetite gained by eight hours abstinence had not left us squeamish, and without mustard and salt, with our fingers for knives and forks, we did justice to the repast.—After dinner I went on board, and late in the evening returned with a “marine” fully accoutred for the amusement of Fenou. The king's house was deserted, but directed by the clapping of hands and the beating of bamboo, I came to an open space where I found the house of assembly,—a low but

large shed,—crowded with people and resounding to the wild song of the natives. With the odd attendance of a soldier so tall and so singularly dressed, I was soon noticed, and a lane being opened through the crowd, by stooping low under the eaves of the house, I found myself in the presence of the king, and a sight broke in upon my delighted senses -- not equalled by any thing I had before seen.

Fenou was seated, with the captain and company on either hand, on a log of wood at one end of the shed, and with the exception of an open space or stage in the centre, the whole floor was covered with the bronzed handsome countenances of male and female natives. The dancers came on in groups of three or four, and governing their motions with the exactest regularity and most pleasing elegance to the varied tones of a band, formed by striking the bamboo on the ground and the clapping of hands;—they gradually advanced from the slowest and most measured steps to the quickest and most intricate, preserving throughout the same finished grace and spirited action. The male dancers were nearly naked, having only a girdle of “chi” leaves round their middle, leaving all their limbs free and unrestrained; the females were more perfectly clothed, the tappa being wound round the waist, and hanging to the knee. Both were liberally anointed with the cocoa nut oil, and the red glare thrown on them and all from the small fires lighted in each corner gave a wildness and romance to the scene, that excited my most earnest attention. The marine I had introduced, much to my annoyance, soon put a stop to the dancing,—for all eyes were directed towards

him; even the dancers could not withstand the general attraction, and when the captain told him to go through his drill before Fenou, the stage was all his own;—the dancers became the eagerest spectators, and so delighted were all that the place rung again with their shouts. After this display we adjourned to the king’s house,—were treated with a cava party and a supper, in which their cooking shewed to much advantage, although their only pots and stew pans are the broad leaves of the plantain tree. The king told us to sleep when we were inclined, and in this delightful climate we felt it no decrease of comfort to lie down on the mats, spread on the floor of his hut. The king himself slept in the same posture, and I was much amused to see one of his handsome wives busy shampooing him till he went to sleep.

We rose at day-light. Fenou was already up, and in pursuance of a bad practice, had joined a party drinking “cava” at the house of a neighbouring chief: anxious to see something more of the inhabitants, I strolled with the lieutenant of our party through the village. Our curiosity led us into every house, and the good temper of the inmates allowed us freely to ransack them for all we could possibly want for bartering. My companion pointed me out the house in which Captain W. was received with so much state; it was the same in which we had seen the dance the night previous:—its situation was well chosen for a public building, and the wide-spreading branches of a tree, whose trunk imitated the size of our largest oaks,—threw a sombre shade over the plot of grass spread before

the shed, and served much to heighten its effect. It was now filled by bundles of yams, brought by Fenou's order to form a present for Captain W.—We had been but a few minutes here, when Fenou and the captain arrived: the former took his seat on a mat placed under the shed, surrounded by his chiefs, and uttered a long speech, in which the present of 800 yams was offered as a return for the captain's condescension and kindness. The captain accepted them in another speech, interpreted by Brown, and they were taken to our boat; some refreshment was then offered to us, and after a taste of some yam and pork we proceeded on board.

The next day, Fenou and all his court came on board, and though they behaved with great propriety, I was not sorry when the time arrived for landing them. Fenou's cunning amused me much;—for many reasons he was anxious to get some powder, and he promised any thing I wished, if I would procure him some. But the captain was as anxious on the other hand to prevent him, and of course I could not favor him; but to the last moment he persisted in his request, and tried every means of enticement and persuasion.

In all however, my opinion is very much in favor of the inhabitants in Vavaoo; their appearance is generally prepossessing and they excel us in strength, shape, and activity of limb. Their manner of life gives them a vivacity and quickness of eye I have never seen equalled, and they seem intuitively to possess a politeness and delicacy that prevents them from running into extremes; and though from a real wish to obtain information, they are curious and

inquisitive, they are never intrusive or impertinent.—They are very cleanly both in their person and apparel:—I remarked to the old man Brown that the tappa I had seen in this island was much inferior to that of Tahiti;—“It is, I acknowledge, (replied he,) but they have a very good reason for it; in this island their ideas of cleanliness never allow them to wear tappa more than five or six days, which the poorer natives could hardly do, if they took as much pains in the manufacture as the Tahitians.” “The king (he added,) changes his dress every day which he is enabled to do easily, as a principle part of his taxes are levied in tappa.” Their intercourse with the other sex also discovers a refinement quite foreign to the other islands in the Pacific; for though polygamy is allowed and practised, promiscuous concubinage is not tolerated, and in a married woman is punished with death. The consequence is that the women, whose perfectly delicate hands and feet have often excited my admiration, and whose lively dark eye with its long fringe of black eye-lashes have made a strong impression on my memory,—are a perfect contrast to the uncouth ugly figures of our friends at the court of Raiatea, and are free hitherto from that dreadful scourge which Europeans, in introducing to these islands the knowledge of civilized life, have entailed on them and their posterity for ever; and which already, from their ignorance of remedies and neglect of cleanliness, has spread alarmingly, and like the plague spreads but to destroy. How long the Tonga Islands may escape I cannot say, for their intercourse with strangers is now very great, and is

yearly increasing. One circumstance inclines me to hope for the best: I observed the women generally show a dislike to foreigners and avoid as much as possible receiving any attention from them.

Possessed of considerable ingenuity and energy of character, I see nothing to prevent the natives of Vavaoo—with an absolute king at their head, from arriving quickly at the same point of civilization with their neighbours at the Sandwich Islands.—Many accounts have discovered them to be politically cruel and at times to commit the most wanton outrages against stranger ships; but where their interest does not interfere, they are kind and hospitable. There are many Englishmen living amongst them, and for years have been treated with the greatest kindness; some are married, and patronized by Fenou or one of his chiefs, have settled,—and accommodating themselves to their manners and customs, have seemingly forgot their connections at home, and are likely to remain here the rest of their lives.

Such was Brown of whom I have already spoken,—he arrived here at the same time with Mariner, and like him escaped the massacre of the “Port au Prince.” Being possessed of some shrewdness, joined with a perfect knowledge of the language, he stood high in the opinion of Fenou’s father, and at present holds a situation of great trust and influence with Fenou. I saw his house and his children who were very pretty and interesting; and though not knowing our language were taught by the father both to read and write, and above all the knowledge of a Supreme Being. His house exter-

nally appeared as the others, neatly surrounded with a fence of netted reeds; but I observed an European’s caution in the appearance of a door and latch, and inside a little cupboard furnished with many little English comforts, such as a knife, fork, cup, &c., which showed he had not lost all taste for civilization.

On the 8th we bid adieu to Vavaoo, and shaped our course to the southward, to take advantage of the variable winds to be found in about 30° S.—After very various winds and some heavy breezes, on the 26th of July we anchored in Callao Roads.

Here I bid the reader farewell:—My travels were not ended, but I fear my habits became somewhat changed; only active and busy after pleasure,—idle and negligent in observation,—my time passed often without improvement, and left but little trace on my mind.

NOTES.

Note.

a. p. 24. An anecdote has been communicated to me by a friend in the same ship, which illustrating still more their character, I thought would be interesting. When Captain Waldegrave told them he had brought clothes, &c. as presents from King George; one of the women said,—“You are very kind, but it is not clothes we want; this tappa is quite sufficient for that; but we want a clergyman to give us food for our immortal souls.”

1. p. 24. Since writing the above, I have heard particulars of the island that gave me much pain. It seems that Government on the representation that the inhabitants were not satisfied with their little home, from its smallness and scarcity of water, had paid a vessel to take them to any other island where they might wish to form a settlement. The missionaries at Tabiti, by some means unknown to me and flattering offers of spiritual help, persuaded them to put themselves under their hands, and a district of land, I believe, was given them. They however did not remain long; the newspapers informing us that they had lost four or five of their number by sickness, and were so much disgusted with the immorality and profligacy of the Tahitians, that they urgently requested to be sent back to their old residence.— They had reached Pitcairn's again before I left the coast of South America, which is now a year ago; and I trust their travels have been of service, and while it has given them severe and real experience, has not robbed them of that guileless simplicity of religion and warmth of heart by which they were so distinguished.

2. p. 29. *A hard wood*: “Aito” or casuarina, a very ornamental and useful tree; it seldom grows to any size as tim-

Note.

ber, but is so remarkably tough and hard as to be a substitute for iron in the formation of all their weapons of warfare.

3. p. 41. *Morai*: Indian burial places, held sacred and in great veneration by the natives. It was here that all offerings were made to their Heathen Deities, and not unfrequently have they been stained by the blood of a human victim.

4. p. 42. It had always been the practice to give presents to the kings and chieftains:—in fact it is found a powerful and never-failing auxiliary in moulding them to the wishes of the transient visitor. Any thing curious and singular is more prized by them, than a present we should call handsome. Captain Waldegrave never left an island without making many gifts to the principal chiefs, and they generally would give him some slight return.

5. p. 45. *Tarro*: a root somewhat resembling the yam, but superior in delicacy and flavor, and requiring much more care in the cultivation. The common potatoe has been frequently tried but always failed, owing we suppose to the richness of the soil and warmth of the climate.

6. p. 68. *Cava*: a species of the pepper plant, cultivated with attention in all these islands, from which they make a most favorite intoxicating beverage in the following manner. The root is dug up and when washed clean divided among those assembled, who severally chew it: the bowl is then carried round, and each places his well-masticated piece in it, and the cava bearer, with the fresh stalk of the plantain tree bruised to shreds, gathers them together, and expresses the juice into cups made of leaves, which are presented to the guests, beginning with the man of the highest rank.

7. p. 73. If a guest eats or drinks with the natives, they immediately suppose there can be no subject of dispute.

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5. p. 43. *Yavo*: a root somewhat resembling the yam, but superior in delicacy and flavor, and requiring much more care in the cultivation. The common potatoe has been frequently tried but always failed, owing we suppose to the richness of the soil and warmth of the climate.

6. p. 44. *Coen*: a species of the pepper plant, cultivated with attention in all these islands, from which they make a most favorite intoxicating beverage in the following manner. The root is dug up and when washed clean divided among those assembled, who severally chew it: the bowl is then carried round, and each places his well-masticated piece in it, and the cava being with the fresh stalk of the plantain tree, mixed to shreds, gathers them together, and expresses the juice into cups made of leaves, which are presented to the guests, beginning with the man of the highest rank.

7. p. 45. If a guest eats or drinks with the natives, they immediately suppose there can be no subject of dispute.

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