

been wrecked upon other islands, and have been absent from their own several years. These gales they say come from the northwest. They live here in small huts, which are rather an improvement upon those of the islanders we had already seen; these dwellings are formed of poles, with a mat covering, and are carried with them on their voyages.

Though scarcely able to protect them from the weather, yet these huts are clean, and lined with mats. Their persons seemed cleanly also, and they showed a great disposition to oblige us. Some attention was paid to cultivation, as was evinced in the plantation and care of their cocoa-nut groves, as if wishing to provide for their future wants. The trees of the young plantations were all carefully staked around. Their food consists of dried fish, somewhat similar to a whiting, of which they had a good and plentiful supply, and also of the masi, a preparation of the bread-fruit, which they were keeping for their return voyage.

This was the first island on which we observed the dawning of Christianity and civilization. The native missionaries, although they are yet ignorant of most of the duties enjoined upon a Christian, still do much good in preparing the way. Many learn to read, and some even to write, under their tuition; yet they have many impediments thrown in the way of their efforts by the introduction of spirits by the whites. The old chief, and others, are much addicted to the use of it, and the vessels resorting here for the pearl-fishery generally employ native divers, and pay them for the most part in rum or whiskey. We found here an Englishman who had belonged to a schooner engaged in the pearl-fishery. He told me he had been left there sick by his captain, and had been kindly treated during his stay of three months on the island. I was in hopes of obtaining some information from him, but he knew little or nothing of the language, and was, moreover, a stupid fellow. I gave him a passage to Tahiti, whither he was desirous of going, in the tender.

Having some business on board, I invited the chief to go off with me: he first inquired if all the boats and men were to stay; on my telling him they were not, he said he would go on board if I would also take his wife, and her brother; to which I consented.

The chief had lost one hand, which he informed me had been bitten off by a shark whilst employed in diving for shells. We became great friends, and he thought it necessary to be at my side the whole time. He was an odd old man, and proved before we left him that he had become acquainted with some of the vices of civilization.

We all embarked, soon reached the tender, and bore away for the