

them devouring the latter, with great gusto, raw, but the former they roasted. Here we again saw printed copies of several portions of the Scriptures, and found that many of them could read and write well. No spears, clubs, or warlike instruments were to be seen, and when I asked for them as matters of curiosity, they said they had no arms except two muskets, which were pointed out to me, hanging up under the eaves of the house. The native missionary, a man about fifty years of age, told me that in times past they had "all war," but now all was peace. I was desirous of knowing to what he imputed the change, and he very readily answered, "Mittionari, mai-tai, mai-tai," (missionary, good, good). They acknowledge the authority of Pomare of Tahiti. Dr. Pickering, who was in company with me, came to propose that we should ascend the bluff, which the chief, being made acquainted with, readily gave his consent to, and sent for two men to accompany us. We ascended through the narrow break, twenty to thirty feet wide: the natives had improved the path up by placing the clinky slabs of compact coral, as a rude pavement, and for steps, in order to make the communication more easy to their planting grounds. On reaching the top, we found ourselves in a wood, and wishing to get a view of the interior, we made for the east end, passing occasionally over beds of clinky coral, thrown and scattered in all directions. After a walk of more than a mile, we came to an open space, from which we had a clear view of the interior of the island, which was found to be densely covered with trees. The general shape, as far as it could be seen, was pan-like, or in the form of a dry lagoon.

This island was particularly interesting, from its combining both high and low vegetation; and a very considerable collection of plants was obtained. Several pigeons were seen, two of which we obtained; they were of a large species of *Columba oceanica*, that inhabits these groups. We crossed many large fissures, running in a line with the cliff, some of them two or three feet wide, in which trees of some size were growing.

As far as our observations went, the upper portion of this island is composed of limestone or compact coral rock; the cliff, on its eastern side, where we first landed, appears stratified, horizontally, in beds of ten to twelve feet in thickness, of a sort of conglomerate, composed of shells, coral, and pieces of compact rock, cemented together by a calcareous deposit. The under part of this bed had been much worn by the sea; the rich soil was composed of vegetable matter and decomposed limestone. The slabs that were lying loose upon the surface had a clinky or metallic sound when struck. The island has unequivocal