

The greatest restraint on the conduct of the chiefs, appears to be the fear of losing the good name of their ancestors, and of not handing it down to posterity pure and unspotted. This feeling seems to govern their conduct, and from the information I received, may be made use of as an appeal to them, to avoid doing evil, and to do right.

The missionary, the Rev. Mr. Murray, deserves the greatest credit for this state of things. He has unbounded influence over the natives, and deserves it. The ten commandments are the common law of the island, wherever Christianity has taken root, and any infringement of them is surely punished;—the guilty persons being put out of the church, and denied the privilege of attending worship. They are looked upon as having fallen, and are consequently avoided. This fear of public opinion, I was informed, was found to be sufficient to deter them from the commission of crimes and immoral practices.

The tapa or rugs worn by distinguished chiefs, were preserved, and were formerly much venerated by them. Since the introduction of Christianity, however, such has been its influence that they will now readily part with any thing of the kind. Pomale was induced to let us have those in his possession, and also exchanged the "war spirit" mat for a small present for his wife.

On the 17th, our friend Toa gave us an invitation to visit him at his town of Fungasar, on the north side of the island. It is situated on the next bay to that now called Massacre Bay, where De Langle was killed. The path across the island is a very difficult one to travel; it leads up through the valley, and across the dividing ridge, which is quite precipitous. The rain which had fallen made it very slippery, and the journey was fatiguing to those not accustomed to this kind of walking.

I was much struck here with the manliness and intelligence of the natives, and with their frank open expression of countenance. The colour of their complexion is rather darker than that of the natives of Tahiti. The outlines of face and figure are very like those we had left, their hair and eyes black, and their teeth good and white. Some of them had frizzled hair, but it was generally straight.

Just before arriving at the village, we were met by Toa, and some of his relations and attendants, who welcomed us to his village, saluting me by rubbing his nose with my hand; this is the usual custom.

He ordered a pig, taro, bread-fruit, &c., &c., for our entertainment. These were cooked in the universal Polynesian mode, by being covered up in a hole with hot stones. We were soon told that the feast was ready, but having had some experience of their cooking, we