

desired it might remain in the oven a little while longer. Their usual custom is to take it out the moment that the taro is cooked, and from daily practice they are well acquainted with the time required to cook it. This is scarcely sufficient to give the pig time to be warmed through. Our request prevailed, and in the course of half an hour we were summoned to the council-house or *fale-tele*, where strangers are always entertained. We were shown our seats, on one side of a circle, while Toa, with his family and friends, occupied the other. The mats, except one, were not very clean. The pig, which must have weighed one hundred pounds, was brought in, and laid with the taro and bread-fruit on banana-leaves. A butcher's knife was all that we possessed to carve it with. The whole village, old and young, men, women, and children, who were waiting in anxious expectation for their share, now surrounded us, and made it uncomfortable to eat, with so many hungry expectants; I made haste, therefore, to divide it, and with it they soon dispersed. The taro was exceedingly well cooked, dry, and farinaceous. The bread-fruit they said was too young, and not being considered good by them, they objected to giving us any of it, but did not hesitate to eat it themselves. A pig is a great treat to them, for although they have plenty, they prefer selling to eating them.

All kinds of provisions in these islands are enhancing in value, and will continue to do so. It is remarkable how the prices fluctuate. On some days provisions of all kinds will be exceedingly cheap, and almost any article will be taken in exchange; and then again nothing can be found to please the natives, or induce them to trade, although the quantity for sale is equally as great. It was not a little amusing to see the natives sitting whole days to obtain the price of their fowl or pig, and persisting in their refusal of the offer made; and this was sometimes done by a large number at the same time, all remaining true to each other until their *poe* or food became exhausted, when they would take the earliest opportunity of disposing of their different parcels.

In the grove near the village, we saw several piles of stones. I was told they were the graves in which they formerly buried the dead, just below the surface. On the top were placed stones, forming a high pile. Now they bury their dead in graves about three feet deep, and enclose them with the *Dracæna*, which grows rapidly, and forms a pretty and neat trellis.

Toa became quite communicative, and as he showed me about his village, he told me, through the interpreter, that before the missionaries came, the chiefs all had their "*aitu*" or spirits, which they worshipped,