

and that they felt themselves obliged to do every thing they commanded. His aitu were fresh-water eels, which he constantly fed in the brook near the village. I visited it, and requested him to catch one, which he attempted to do; but after a long search, turning over large stones, and examining holes, he was unsuccessful. He said there were many in it formerly, and quite tame; but since he had embraced Christianity, they had all been caught and destroyed. On farther questioning him, he told me that he had himself eaten them; and that formerly if any one had touched, disturbed, or attempted to catch one, he should have killed him immediately. He said his eels were very good to eat, and was sorry he could not find any more; and laughed very heartily when I spoke to him about eating his aitu. I mention this circumstance to show the powerful effect the Christian religion has had upon the ancient customs of this people.

After much persuasion, they were induced to sing some of their old war-songs. Mr. Drayton wrote one down as a specimen of their music; the words were written by one of the interpreters.

E - si - a Sa - moa a pa - la nou nou Fo - - a

faa - fi tui - le a - la a - la po - po - to ar - fi - ti a mai

fi na - mo - to le Vai vau fa lau - - ua tai mai le ou lu.

To the above they sing a kind of second, with very correct harmony. They do not seem to have any particular air among them, and in singing the above, they did not sound the same notes every time. All their music sounds alike, and the above will give a good idea of it. A translation of the song was made by the same interpreter, and is as follows.

A chief of Samoa attacks an enemy on another island and conquers. After the victors have embarked safely for their island, they sing as follows:

“Keep her away, and mind the helm.”

And when they get home, the people sing,—

“We are glad you have come to your island of plenty,
We have waited a long time for our chief and canoes.”