

Toa, after his unsuccessful search for his favourite eels, went into the brook for a bath, which he told me he very frequently did during the day; and it was delightful to see the pleasure he took in it. The natives, indeed, are almost constantly in the water, and, consequently, very cleanly in their persons. Finding that it occupied too much of their thoughts on the Sabbath, bathing on that day has been forbidden.

This village contained about forty houses, of a large and commodious size, and about two hundred inhabitants, a number of whom were absent on a visit to Upolu.

Towards evening, we took our leave of Toa, thanking him warmly for his kindness; we were escorted to the outside of the village by his friends and relations, whilst Toa himself accompanied us to Pago-pago.

The natives have no fixed time for meals, eating whenever they feel hungry. Their food consists of pork, fish, bread-fruit, cocoa-nuts, bananas, &c., but principally of taro. All of these are produced in abundance. Water is their common drink, and, notwithstanding cocoa-nuts are so abundant, the milk is seldom used: the trouble of procuring them is too much for them. They use ava made from the *Piper mythicum*, and it is the only intoxicating drink they have.\* It is never used to excess, although old and young, male and female, are very fond of it. The taste, to one unaccustomed to it, is not pleasant, being somewhat similar to that of rhubarb and magnesia. Their mode of preparing it is the same as has already been described.

They sleep on the large coarse mats with which they always cover the floors of their houses. Over these they spread coloured tapas, some of which are also used for nets of protection against the numerous mosquitoes. For a pillow they use a piece of bamboo supported on small legs. Their hair is frequently shorn close, and coral, lime, or ashes sprinkled over it to destroy the vermin, which are generated in great numbers in their tapas and mats.

According to old Toa, a native is in a comfortable condition when he has a good house; a well-made visiting canoe; a neat, handy, large and well-formed woman for a wife; a taro-patch with a good fence; cocoa-nut, and bread-fruit trees, with a reasonable number of pigs.

The women are now admitted to the same privileges as the men. The chiefs have still great power over the people, although the influence of the missionaries has tended greatly to diminish it. Most of the people look back to the days when polygamy existed with regret,

\* The ava does not, according to the whites, intoxicate in the same manner as ardent spirits, but produces a temporary paralysis, tremors, and a confused feeling about the head, indistinctness and distortion of vision, somewhat resembling the effect of opium.