

and cannot understand why they are restricted to one wife. They say, "Why should God be so unreasonable as to require them to give up all their wives but one for his convenience?" They pay just attention to their religious duties; morning and evening prayers are always said, as is grace before their meals, and with a devotion rarely to be seen among civilized men.

Their amusements seem to be few; their books are constantly before them, and a great portion of their time is employed over them. Old gray-headed men may be seen poring over the alphabet, and taught by some of the youngest of the family. The employment of the men is to cultivate and weed the taro, and to take care of the fences; they also make sennit for their houses, and canoes for fishing. The women are engaged in making mats, and the boys and girls play, and wait upon their seniors.

Next to study, fishing is their great employment. This is performed by driving the fish towards the nets in shoal water, where they are easily caught. The cast-net is also used.

The only amusement we saw, is a game called lafo-tupe, which is played with cocoa-nut shells, and resembles shuffle-board.

Mr. Murray is an amiable as well as a truly pious man, and the natives have imitated the example set by him. He studiously avoids any intercourse with them in the way of trade or barter, except so much as is necessary for the provision of his own family, and devotes his whole time to preaching and teaching the gospel. He is one of the missionaries engaged in translating the Bible, many parts of which are now completed, and extensively used by the natives, many of whom read and write well.

Their observance of the Sabbath is very strict; and it is impossible to get a native to do any thing whatsoever on that day, but perform his religious duties. They attend church regularly. In Mr. Murray's congregation there are about thirty communicants, and nearly one thousand attendants on public worship. They come from many of the surrounding villages. Mr. Murray has been here about three years, and the native preachers nine or ten; he is well acquainted with the difficulties of his station, but seemed to feel assured that his exertions were about being crowned with success. He represented to me that the natives were very tractable, and desired exceedingly to be taught; that they had much application, seemed to comprehend many things, and were certainly not surpassed in intelligence by any of the natives of Polynesia.

Polygamy, which formerly was practised to a great extent, still exists among those who have not been converted.