

to March.\* I obtained from the pilot a register of the weather from January, 1839, till October of the same year, which will show more clearly the state of the climate. This will be found in Appendix VII.

In our explorations, nearly all the villages of this island were visited by some of the officers of the squadron, and from their report they much resemble each other. Those of Fagaitua and Leone, on the southern coast, are the largest, and are more of the Devil's towns than the others. One of their customs is truly savage. They seldom use pork as a food, consequently it is a great rarity with them; but at intervals of several months the villagers assemble at a feast, at which thirty or forty hogs are killed, when they gormandize on them for four or five days, or as long as the food lasts. The whole is eaten, entrails and all. Fish and taro are the principal food, and large numbers of the natives may be seen fishing off the coast in fine weather. The kind of fish usually caught are mullet.

There is a large kind of worm which they esteem a great delicacy, and which is eaten with much relish. It is impossible to see them sucking down the entrails of the *biche-de-mar*, *holithuria*, and *echina*, without disgust. They also eat many of the shell-fish that are found on the shore.

The temperature found on the top of Matafoa, at the altitude of two thousand three hundred and fifty-nine feet, was at 4 P. M.,  $69\cdot4^{\circ}$ , whilst that on board the ship was  $79\cdot5^{\circ}$ .

We made an endeavour here to search the reefs at night for shells, with flambeaux or torchlight, after the manner of the Chain Islanders, by which means it is said that many species of shells are taken, which are never seen by daylight. We cannot vouch for this being the case, our experiment not having succeeded. The leaves of the cocoa-nut were either too green or too wet to burn. If success really attends this method, it is a singular trait in the economy of mollusca, which are generally supposed to be partial to daylight. It was my determination to make another trial, under more favourable circumstances; but from our constant occupation and fatigue of the crew in the daytime, we were unable to renew the experiment.

A few days before leaving Pago-pago, Mr. Murray brought to my notice the account of a murder that was supposed to have been committed on a foreigner at the west end of the island, for the sake of the little property he had about him. The report, however, appeared to me to be too vague to authorize any delay for the purpose of making an

\* During eleven days of our stay, the quantity of rain that fell was  $4\frac{6}{10}$  inches.