

The islands of the Samoan Group contain two thousand six hundred and fifty square miles, which are divided as follows, viz. :

Savaii	700
Upolu	560
Tutuila	240
Manono	9
Apolima	7
Manua	100
Oloosinga	24
Ofoo	10

The soil of all the islands is rich, and arises chiefly from the decomposition of volcanic rocks. At Tutuila, it was remarked that the vegetation was luxuriant, and the trees of large growth. At Upolu the forests seemed more sombre than those of Brazil, although the same kind of growth appeared to prevail.

The trees do not branch out until near the top, which renders it difficult to obtain botanical specimens. The trunks are covered, and even the summits of the trees sometimes overgrown, with the leaves of the scandent *Flagellaria* (*Freycinetia*), a climbing *Piper*, and other vines, as *Hoyas*, *Convolvulus*, &c. The lower part of the trunks are enveloped with ferns, of which there are many varieties, and with some species of *Pothos*, which give the whole ground a matted or woven appearance.

The woods in the interior of the islands are very thick, and often composed of large and fine trees; among them are, tree-ferns, a species of banyan, pandanus, and several species of palms. Among other plants a species of *Cerbera* was observed, with beautiful clusters of large and odorous white flowers, which yielded a quantity of white viscous sap, that our botanist, Mr. Rich, thought might be manufactured into caoutchouc. On the whole, the species of trees are much more numerous than at Tahiti, and the vegetation in consequence richer and more varied. The woods, however, are not enlivened by showy flowers, and the few of these that are seen are of a white or grayish hue, which is to be ascribed to their being but little exposed to the rays of the sun, in consequence of the umbrageous foliage. Many of the flowers seen on the ground were unknown to our botanist, as were several fruits.

Among the trees which have been named, that which struck us as most remarkable was the species of banyan (*Ficus religiosa*), called in these islands Ohwa. Some of these were seen, whose pendant branches had taken root in the ground to the number of thousands, forming stems from an inch to two feet in diameter, uniting in the main trunk more than eighty feet above the ground, and supporting a