



The song is usually extemporaneous, relating to some recent occurrence. The following is a translation of one of them, obtained by Mr. Couthout through one of the interpreters.

The Papalangi has come to Samoa,
The Papalangi has come to Vaiusu,
Let us all go down to the spring.
The Papalangi is fond of the Siva.
Where is the pig? Where is the fattened fowl?
The Papalangi cannot join in the Siva.
Kindle up a bright blaze! Where are the virgins?
I am going to get some cocoa-nuts.
Look at this Samoan, how finely he dances!

These dances are usually performed in the fale-tele, where strangers are entertained. The inhabitants and their guests occupy different ends of the building, and alternately keep up the dancing and singing. Through the latter all the news is made known, occurrences related, and inquiries made and answered.

Many of the nights are spent in this way; and much of the day-time in eating, bathing, and sleeping.

Besides these dances, there are various games. One of these, called "lupe," is played by two persons, who sit opposite each other. One of them presents his closed fist to his opponent, and then rapidly holds up one, two, three, or all the fingers and the thumb, striking the back of his hand on the mat at the same time. If his opponent fails of instantly holding up a like number of fingers, he loses a point, and ten points finish the game.