

as the stones allow a free passage to water. On the pavement are laid coarse mats, and the finer ones are spread above, covering about half the area.

These fine mats are rolled up until required. Many baskets hang here and there, with some cocoa-nut shells to contain water, and the ava-bowl. Mats are suspended about as screens. At night, each sleeper is usually supplied with a musquito-curtain, called tai-namu, which, forming a kind of tent, by being passed over a ridge-pole or rope, and falling on the ground, answers all the purposes required.\*

On one, and sometimes on both sides of the centre-post of the houses, is a small circular hearth, enclosed by stones of larger size; this is the place for burning the dried leaves of the cocoa-nut, which serve them for light at night. Although these do not give out much smoke, yet as they burn for a long time, the house gradually becomes filled with soot, for there is no outlet above for its escape.†

As they always use the flambeau to light them on their return from their feasts, it produces a singular and pretty effect to see an assembly breaking up, and the different parties winding through the groves with torches, throwing the whole into bold relief. A rude lamp is also used, made of a cocoa-nut shell, with a little oil in it, and a piece of vine-stalk for a wick, and likewise the nut of the *Aleurites triloba*, or candle-nut, several of which are strung on a thin stick.

Many white-washed houses are now to be seen, for the natives have been taught the use of lime by the missionaries, and are beginning to use it in their dwellings. All the missionaries' houses have plastered walls, and board floors, and are very comfortable. There is a great quantity of fine timber on these islands, for building purposes. The timber of the bread-fruit tree and hibiscus, are alone made use of by the natives. The missionaries have their planks or boards sawed by hand, and generally by foreign carpenters.

The food of the Samoans is prepared in the way practised at Tahiti, and generally consists of bread-fruit, bananas, taro, sweet-potatoes, and yams. Fish is supplied in quantities from the reef, and they also eat the large chestnut, vi-apple, and arrow-root, the fecula of which they begin to manufacture in some quantities. Although it would scarcely be supposed necessary, where every thing is so bountifully supplied by nature, yet they make provision for times of scarcity and for their voyages, of the bread-fruit, made when green into a kind of

\* Musquitoes are exceedingly annoying to strangers, but I did not remark that the natives were troubled with them. Their bodies being well oiled is a great preservation against the bites of these insects.

† The prevalence of sore eyes is said to be owing to the smoke of the lamps.