

luxuriance of the foliage is not surpassed. Some few specimens of pumice have been found on its shores, probably drifted there from the island of Tofooa, which is said to have an active volcano. Tofooa is the highest island of the group, and next in height is Eooa. There is a marked difference in the appearance of the islands of Eooa and Tonga; on the former of which there is comparatively little vegetation.

On Tonga, although the vegetation equals any within the tropics, I was struck with the exaggerated accounts of the cultivation of the island; for, so far from finding it a perfect garden, exhibiting the greatest care in its cultivation, it now appeared to be entirely neglected. The yam-grounds are more in the interior of the island, and in consequence of the war, there was no safety in passing beyond the limits of the party which possessed the north part of the island, or that in the vicinity of Nukualofa.

The natives cultivate yams, sweet-potatoes, bananas, cocoa-nuts, bread-fruit, sugar-cane, shaddock, limes, and the ti (*Spondias dulcis*); the pandanus is much attended to, and is one of their most useful trees, and of it all their mats are made; a little corn is grown, and they have the papaw-apple (*Papaya*), and water-melon. The missionaries have introduced the sweet orange from Tahiti, and a species of cherimoyer (*Annona*); many other things have, as I learned, been attempted, but have hitherto failed. I presented the missionaries with a variety of both fruit and vegetable seeds, and trust that they will succeed and be of advantage to future visitors; the natives, I was told, understand the different kinds, discriminating among them in their planting.

The botany of this island resembles that of the Samoan Group. A species of nutmeg was found here, differing from either of the Samoan ones: the trees were very full of fruit, and much larger; one of them was observed a foot and a half in diameter, and upwards of forty feet in height. There was a number of ornamental shrubs. A description of climbing plants, which it was found a difficult matter to trace among the varieties of forest trees, gave a peculiar character to some parts of this overgrown island.

The climate of Tonga is humid and the heat oppressive, rising frequently to  $98^{\circ}$  in the shade; much rain falls; the mean temperature during our stay was  $79.25^{\circ}$ . The trade-winds are by no means constant, and westerly winds occasionally blow in every season, which, from their variable character, have obtained the name with the natives of "foolish winds."

We had to regret the state the island was in, as it prevented our making that full examination of it that I had intended and hoped; we