

activity both of mind and body; this may be owing, in a great measure, to their constant wars, and the necessity of their being continually on the alert, to prevent surprise. It was pleasant to look upon the Tongese, but I felt more interest in the Feejees; the contrast was somewhat like that observable between a well-bred gentleman and a boor.

After the king got on shore, they had much talk at the mbure-house, upon all they had seen, and among other things, he remarked, "that my men might be good warriors, but they walked very much like Muscovy ducks," a bird of which they have numbers.

Tanoa sent me word he would like to come and see things without ceremony, to which I readily consented. The next day he came on board, as he said, to look and see for himself; he stayed some hours. When he entered the cabin, I was pouring out some mercury for my artificial horizon, of which I gave him several globules in his hand. He complained of their being hot, and amused himself for a long time in trying to pinch them up, which of course he found it impossible to do, and showed some vexation on being foiled, nipping his fingers together with great vehemence to catch the metal. His actions resembled those of a monkey; he kept looking at his fingers, and seemed astonished that they were not wet, and could not be made to understand how it could wet a button, (which I silvered for him,) and not his fingers. He talked a great deal of the regulations he had signed. I was desirous of knowing whether he fully understood them, which I found he did. I then asked him if it would not be better for his son Seru to sign them also, as he is understood to be the acting chief; he said "no," that his signing was quite sufficient, and made them binding on all the dependencies of Ambau. He desired me, when his son Seru paid me a visit, to talk hard to him, and give him plenty of good advice, for he was a young man, and frisky; but he himself was old, and saw things that were good and bad. He said Seru would visit me in a few days, when he returned, as they could not both leave Ambau at the same time.

The observatory duties were now commenced, and Lieutenant Perry and Mr. Eld were ordered to assist me. I had, while thus employed, ample time to get information from David Whippy, who seemed not only to have acquired the language perfectly, but also a good knowledge of the customs, manners, and habits of the natives.

Ovolau is divided into four districts, viz., Levuka on the east, Fokambou on the southwest, Barita on the southeast, and Vaki Levuka on the northwest; besides these, there is the interior or mountainous region, called by the natives Livoni. Levuka is *mbati* to the chiefs of Ambau; Fokambou and Barita are *ygali* to the same power,