

and her attendants leading the way to the feast. This was spread in a large house at Toanoa Point, which had been erected for the occasion, surrounded with a palisade, and gaily decked with flags, &c.

Near the entrance her majesty halted, and the children passed in review before her, the monitors shouting at the top of their voices, "God save our Queen Pomare, may her life be long!" to which the children responded, "Amen." They then formed in line and received the queen, taking off their caps and bowing low as she passed. About thirty foreigners were there to pay their respects: these she invited to dine with her, fine mats being spread for their accommodation. On the centre of these mats were placed fresh leaves of the hibiscus, on which native food was served, consisting of baked pig, taro, bread-fruit, &c., cooked in a variety of ways, with fermented cocoa-nut pulp: for sauce there were small calabashes of salt water, and for drink the young cocoa-nut milk: each person was furnished with a plate, but knives and forks were not supplied. Mr. Pritchard said a short grace, when her majesty set the example to the rest, and they all began with good-will.

When the royal party had finished, the schools by districts succeeded; and after all had done, the procession was again formed, and marched several times round the enclosure, chaunting, and going through a variety of gesticulations and manœuvres, with surprising accuracy, and in excellent concert.

Several speeches were now made by Mr. Pritchard and the chiefs, highly commendatory of the conduct of all, and laudatory of those present, including the foreigners, who returned their acknowledgments to the queen for the civility. Thus ended this day's feast.

The scene that took place the next day will serve to show the hostile feelings of which I made mention in my account of this island, as existing between the high chiefs and the queen's party.

A meeting had been called for the purpose of receiving the reports of the auxiliary societies, and the returns of contributions: the people were found assembled; her majesty was robed in a crimson silk, and her maids in close-fitting jackets of the same colour, with white skirts. Notwithstanding the religious tendency of the meeting, want of harmony interrupted its proceedings, and extended to such lengths at one time as to have had the appearance of terminating very seriously.

This misunderstanding arose from the circumstance of the Matavai people having dined with the queen the day before, instead of keeping an engagement they had made with the Anaan chiefs at another place. The latter were indignant that they should have been thus treated with neglect without apology.