

fied that it will be a very desirable improvement, both for their comfort and health, if they can be induced to abandon their modes of sleeping on the damp ground; and some endeavours have already been made to effect a change in this respect, as one of the best means to prevent the diseases of the climate, which are thought to arise principally from this cause.

These gentlemen also visited Malietoa, who was still occupying the same small house, directly opposite to the fale-tele, in which I saw him during my visit. On entering, they were greeted by his two wives, the matronly Lauilupa, and Siona, the younger, both of whom still maintained their fleshy appearance. They recognised Mr. Hale, and gave him a warm greeting. The old king, who had been sleeping on his divan or raised floor, now came forward. He appeared greatly changed, and was scarcely to be recognised as the same person. Instead of his dignified and upright carriage, which struck us all so much at our former visit, his form had become meagre and shrunken, and he was apparently bowed down with years, and trembling with infirmities.

He saluted our gentlemen with his usual courtesy, and, after seating himself, listened to the account of their visit, and of the news at Apia. He still retained much of his former air of command and sternness, which caused him to be likened by Dr. Whittle to a sick lion. He was unable to sit up long, and was soon again asleep. Old Lauilupa now entertained them by complaining of her sufferings from rheumatism, which Dr. Whittle gave her directions how to treat.

The two wives began, in a short time, to beg for presents—the elder one for needles and thread, the younger for jews-harps, rings, and looking-glasses. These were promised, on their sending to the ship for them. They supplied their guests with food, which was served on an eating-mat, and consisted of pork, fish, taro, and yams. The queens sat by, pointing out the choicest bits, and, had not our gentlemen declined the honour, seemed disposed to use their royal fingers for its conveyance to their mouths.

In the evening, they took a stroll around the village, where every house was found lighted up with a cocoanut-oil lamp, or a torch of the candle-nut, strung upon a stick, and some with the fire of dry cocoanut leaves. In each house a family circle was usually seen, variously employed, some eating, some talking, others braiding sennit, but no amusements; for it was Saturday evening, and they were preparing for the Sabbath. Wherever they went, they were received with civility, and invited to eat.

Returning to Malietoa, another meal was found provided for them,