

found to be setting out of this passage at the rate of two and a half miles per hour.

When Lieutenant De Haven returned, he was accompanied by the chief, who called himself both the chief and god of the island, Foilape. He was a fine-looking man, about forty years of age, with prominent features, his hair cut short and nicely oiled. His legs were swollen with the elephantiasis. He was gaily dressed, with both the maro and girdle, beside the square mat of various colours around his waist. He saluted the officers with the rubbing of noses, and said that his name had been Faikatea, which he had changed with Lieutenant De Haven. He remained but a short time on board, and explained by his motions the necessity of his leaving the ship before the sun went down. He was very urgent that some of them should accompany him, and pass the night at his village; but finding nobody disposed to do so, he departed, and the rest soon followed.

This island was called by the natives Nukufetau; they were acquainted with Fanafute, or Ellice's Island, and also with Oaitupu, or Tracy's Island. On being asked if these were all the lands they knew of, they said, pointing to the east, that beyond Oaitupu there were three islands, called Oatafu, Nukunono, and Fakaafo, which it will be recollected are those of the Union Group. Mr. Hale pressed the inquiry, if this were all; and with some hesitation they added the name of Oloosinga, which is one of the small eastern islands of the Samoan Group; but what seemed strange, they did not understand the name of Samoa. On mentioning Tonga and Haabai, the names appeared to be recognised. Some bananas attracting their attention, which they saw hanging up, they called *futi o rotuma!* Mr. Hale, in his inquiries, found the pronunciations of these natives very distinct, and it enabled him better to understand the orthography of their names.

These islanders gave the name of their god as Foilape: on inquiry being made if the Tui-Tokelau also lived there, they immediately replied, that he was the god of Fakaafo, thus exhibiting an intimate acquaintance with the Union Group. It is not a little remarkable that many of the officers were struck with the great likeness that the chief of the island, Faikatea, bore to Taupe, of Fakaafo. At Fakaafo, mention was made of an island called Pokapoka: this name the natives of Nukufetau recognised immediately, and said that it was an island thickly inhabited. We have not been able to ascertain with what island the name can be associated. All these circumstances induced a strong belief that these islanders were derived, at no very remote period, from those of the Union Group; and the fact of the latter being entirely ignorant of other lands, would lead more strongly to that belief.