

tants arrived in two canoes from Barness or Baneba, an island which they say lies to the southwestward, and whence they had escaped during a civil war, as the only means left them of preserving their lives. After they had arrived upon this island and had begun a settlement, two other canoes happened to arrive from an island to the southeastward, which they called Amoi. The natives in the last canoes were lighter in colour, and better-looking than their predecessors, and spoke a different language. For one or two generations the two races lived together in harmony; but the Baneba people coveting the wives of the men from Amoi, difficulties arose, which ended in the Amoi men being put to death by those of Baneba, and the latter taking possession of the women.

From these sources all the Kingsmill natives are descended. The bread-fruit is said to have been brought by the Amoi people, and the taro by those of Baneba. The cocoa-nut and pandanus were found growing on the island.

It is difficult to settle the position of Amoi, from its name; but the direction in which it lies would designate the Samoan Group as the islands referred to. Those of Baneba, it is suggested, might be derived from the Caroline Group, although the direction does not exactly correspond. The Ascension Island of that group has Boneba for its native name.

What adds to the probability of this simple story, is the fact that it is almost the only tradition these islanders have. That the islands have been peopled within a period not very remote, is believed by the natives themselves, and they state that only a few generations back the people were much fewer than at present, wars less frequent, and the communication between the islands safe and free. The grandfather of Tekere, the present king of Kuria, is said to have voyaged to every island in the group on a pleasure trip to see the world, about a hundred years since. But, so estranged have the inhabitants of the several islands become from each other, that if a canoe from one of them should visit, or seek, through distress, another island, the persons in it would in all probability be put to death, under the supposition of their being spies, or in order to procure their bones and teeth for the manufacture of ornaments.

The islanders of this group differ in their personal traits from those of Polynesians, and more nearly resemble the Malays. Their colour is a dark copper, a shade or two deeper than the Tahitian; they are of the middle size, well made, and slender. Their hair is fine, black, and glossy; the nose slightly aquiline, but a little broad at the base; the mouth is large, with full lips and small teeth; the cheek bones pro-