

of different sizes, the largest of which is about a mile long by half a mile wide ; some of them exceed twenty-four feet in height above the surrounding soil : with this altitude, these are very conspicuous on a low coral island. Each of these mounds is supposed to be the place for a Kainakaki, the great beauty of which is invisible to mortal eyes. Here the spirits pass their time in feasting and dancing ; and whatever they delighted in on earth, is now enjoyed to the fullest extent. The ground of the Kainakaki is considered sacred, and though overgrown with trees, no native will venture to cut them down : when a tree falls, it is taken away, and another planted in its place.

The daily occupation of these natives will serve to give an estimate of their character, and would seem to be necessary before speaking of their customs.

They rise at daylight, wash their face, hands, and teeth, with fresh water, and afterwards anoint themselves with scented cocoanut-oil. They then proceed to their work, and continue at it until the heat becomes oppressive, which it does by nine or ten o'clock, when they return to their houses, wash themselves again, and take their first meal : all the middle of the day is passed in their houses, or in the mariapa, in sleeping, or chatting with their neighbours. About four o'clock in the afternoon they again resume their work, and continue engaged at it until sunset, when they return, and wash themselves for the third time. They then take their second meal, and shortly after dark retire to sleep. They have no torches, (except for great occasions,) or any other means of lighting their houses, and are thus compelled to retire early, so that their amusements, as well as their occupations, cease with the day. The character of these islanders has many things in it to condemn : although they are deceitful and dishonest in their dealings, yet they are, in their intercourse with each other, hospitable and generous ; they never buy or sell, but if any person desires an article which another has, he asks for it, and if not too valuable and esteemed, is seldom refused : it is the general understanding that such favours are to be returned, and that the request should only be made by persons who can afford to do so. They always place food before a stranger, and any one who has not a sufficient supply at home is at liberty to join the meals of a more fortunate neighbour. According to Kirby, there are many who are desirous of avoiding this tax upon them, and take their meals after dark, when they are not so liable to be intruded upon by their hungry fellow-townsmen.

They are addicted to thieving, although they are severely punished for it when detected. They are easily excited to anger, but are soon