

uncivilized men. No desire of pecuniary emolument has been evinced by them, nor are they sustained by any expectation of temporal reward, and I can testify, from personal observation, that their position, in a worldly sense, is not to be envied.

To judge of the amount of good they have accomplished, it is necessary to turn back to the records of early voyages, and compare the present with the former condition of these islanders. Now they are seen enjoying peace, possessing a written instead of a mere oral language, living under wholesome laws, and receiving the advantages of school education and church discipline. In former times, we read of perpetual intestine broils, of the worship of idols propitiated by human sacrifice, of the depraved association of the Ariore, and its accompanying crime of infanticide. In making this comparison, we cannot but acknowledge that the persons who have effected these changes, are both Christians and philanthropists, and that they have been reasonably successful in implanting the principles of civilization.

As a proof of the value of their labours, my experience warrants me in saying that the natives of Tahiti are honest, well-behaved, and obliging; that no drunkenness or rioting is to be seen, except when provoked by their white visitors and inmates, and that they are obedient to the laws and to their rulers. That they should be comparatively indolent is natural, in a climate where the fruits of the earth almost spontaneously supply the wants of nature, and where a mere animal existence may be maintained without labour. No people is, in truth, so independent of the aid even of their fellows as the Tahitians. A native may in the morning be wholly destitute even of implements wherewith to work, and before nightfall he may be found clothed, lodged, and have all the necessaries of life around him in abundance. These he derives from the cocoa-nut, the poorou (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*), banana, bread-fruit, and bamboo. That he does not find it necessary to call upon others for assistance, does not make him forget the duties of hospitality, but it does produce a thoughtlessness about his own wants, and takes away that incitement to labour, which is so powerful an aid in the promotion of civilization. Still, I am satisfied that the Tahitians do not avoid labour, when they can work with profit to themselves. Those who were employed on board the squadron, where their pay was liberal and regular, performed their tasks faithfully and well; and they bear the same character for fidelity in the whale-ships, on board of which they are much