

beating with an iron knife, making much noise, his face assuming a contemplative expression, until he had done with his mummeries. Strange as it may seem, he has many proselytes, and nearly all the inhabitants of the district of Sagana are followers of his doctrine. Their appearance contrasts very strongly with that of the Christian villages, while the heathens are, to appearance, almost a different race of people: the one with long hair, gathered in a knot on the top of the head, and only clothed in the maro; the other with short hair, and dressed in a clean shirt and pareu. To strangers, both are generally kind and hospitable, and continue the Samoan custom of offering food to travellers as they pass through the village.

Since our visit in 1839, Mr. Day had taken up his residence within two miles of Malietoa's town, where Mr. Hale and Dr. Whittle spent an hour or two with him, and proceeded thence to visit Malietoa. Near the new church, the house of Mole was pointed out, in which he had adopted many of the conveniences introduced by foreigners: the floor of his house was of boards, raised above the ground, and his doors were made to turn on hinges. The interior was divided by partitions into four rooms. A table and some rude seats composed the furniture. How far this example will be followed by the natives, time alone can determine. I believe that all those who have examined and reflected upon the condition of the natives of the South Sea islands, will be satisfied 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 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.