

After visiting the governor I was conducted to the house of a native brother (Tetumu) where I spent most of the day conversing as well as I could with the natives who came to see me. I tried to use to the best advantage the few Tahitian words I had learned, and made up the balance with signs, gestures and facial expressions. I also showed them my pictures, temple rocks, etc., and managed to interest them in this manner. I believe most of those who called were members of the Church, as there are two small branches on this island—one at Rotoava, and the other at Tetamanu, on the other end of the island. I also sang hymns, ate chicken and bread, drank cocoanut milk, set an inactive clock agoing, took a walk across the motu and back and finally enjoyed a good night's rest, sleeping on new clean mats placed in a bedstead with my own blanket for a covering.

Fakarava is one of the largest and most important of all the Tuamotu islands. It is thirty-two miles long, and thirteen wide. The two villages, Rotoava and Tetamanu, contain together about 150 inhabitants, of whom the greater number reside at Rotoava, which is the capital of the group, and contains the residence of the governor. Religiously, the people are Saints and Catholics, the latter being in the majority. Our two branches have a membership of about fifty all told.

The Tuamotu islands or the Low Archipelago, is the easternmost group of Polynesia. The islands composing the group extend from northwest to southeast a distance of nearly 750 miles, and lie between 137° and 149° longitude west of Greenwich, with a breadth of something like 600 miles between 14° and 25° south latitude. There are eighty islands altogether, but only fifty-six of them belong to the Tuamotu government; the others are attached to the Gambeer island or islands for administrative purposes.

The Tuamotu islands as listed and described in the French official year book for 1895 are as follows, each island being numbered: 1, Matahiva; 2, Makatea; 3, Tikahau; 4, Ragirola; 5, Arutua; 6, Kaukura; 7, Niau; 8, Ahe; 9, Apataki; 10, Manihi; 11, Toau; 12, Fakarava; 13, Anaa; 14, Aratika; 15, Faaita; 16, Kauehi; 17, Takapoto; 18, Hereheretue; 19, Takarua; 20, Raraka; 21, Tahanea; 22, Taiaro; 23, Tikei; 24, Motutunga; 25, Katuu; 26, Tepoto; 27, Tuanake; 28, Hiti; 29, Makemo; 30, Haraiki; 31, Anu-Anuraro; 32, Anu-Anurunga; 33, Marutea; 34, Taega; 35, Reitoru; 36, Nukutipipi; 37, Nihiru; 38, Hikueru; 39, Tekokoto; 40, Raroia; 41, Marokau; 42, Ravahere; 43, Takume; 44, Negonego; 45, Rekareka; 46, Tauere; 47, Tetopoto or Otohau; 48, Manuhungu; 49, Napuka; 50, Fagatau; 51, Hao; 52, Amanu; 53, Paraoa; 54, Tematangi; 55, Apunui; 56, Fakahina; 57, Pukararo; 58, Pukarunga; 59, Akiaki; 60, Vanavana or Kurataki; 61, Moruroa or Vairaatea; 62, Pukapuka; 63, Vahitahi; 64, Nukutavake; 65, Ahunui or Fagatau; 66, Pinaki; 67, Tatakoto; 68, Turua or Papakaua; 69, Tatakopoto; 70, Morane; 71, Pukaruna; 72, Tenararo; 73, Maturevavao; 74, Vahanga or Vania; 75, Reao or Naupe; 76, Tenarunga; 77, Maria; 78, Marutea; 79, Mangareva; 80, Timoe.

The islands numbered respectively 1 to 53 and 55, 56 and 62, belong to the Tuamotuan governorship, while those numbered 54, 57 to 61 and 63 to 80 be-

long to the Gambeer or Mangarevan government. The most important island is Anaa or Chain island, which contains more inhabitants than any other member of the Tuamotu group; but the seat of government is at Rotoava, on the island of Fakarava, which is more centrally located than Anaa. All the Tuamotu islands, except Makatea, Tikei and Rekareka are low and flat lagoon islands, consisting of ring or bow-shaped coral reefs, of which the widest range from 1200 to 1500 feet across, and the lagoons thus formed. On the inside of these reefs abound with pearl oysters. The largest lagoons are those of Rangiroa (100 miles in circumference) and Fakarava (90 miles.) Most of the islands have passes or openings through the coral reefs from the ocean into the lagoons inside; but only in a few of these is the water deep enough for large ships to pass through. Some are even too narrow and shallow for ordinary schooners, and only passable for small boats. The land part of the islands consists of patches where the coral reefs are a little elevated above the ocean, on which decayed coral have formed a very thin crust of earth, which in some places are quite fertile, and suitable for the cocoa-palm and a variety of bush growth to take root in; but there is no real soil such as forms the foundation of more elevated islands. Each island consists of a number of motus or islets, separated from each other by barren coral reefs, and in a few instances by deeper water passes. Some of the motus are several miles long, but seldom over a quarter of a mile wide; quite a number contain only a few acres of land. The elevation of the highest points on most of the islands seldom exceeds ten feet over high water mark. This being the case, the cocoanut trees on the islands seem to grow from the ocean itself when seen at a distance of several miles, as their bushy tops and trunks appear to view, owing to the culture of the earth appearing long before the land on which they stand. Seen at a less distance the aspect is one of surpassing beauty, if the dry part of the island or belt is sufficiently covered with trees; but much of this beauty is dispelled on a nearer approach, as the vegetation is usually found to be scanty and wiry. This vast collection of coral islands is certainly one of the wonders of the Pacific Ocean.

The area of the entire group, according to the official year book of 1892, is about 86,000 hectares, or 211,514 acres, and the population in 1892 was 5,087 in the Tuamotu part and 508 in the Gambeer part of the Archipelago. The inhabitants belong to the Polynesian race and are most civilized on the westernmost islands, where most of the people have been converted to Christianity. On the eastern islands there are still traces of cannibalism. The Catholics are particularly strong on Anaa and Mangareva, or Gambeer. The Josephites are next in number, and about eight hundred are members of the true Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Some of the natives are dark-skinned, and resemble the Fijians in their figure and ferocity. Others have the more gentle character of the Tahitians; but it is acknowledged that they have a more warlike disposition than the latter, and for this reason Pomare kept a body guard of them in preference to his own subjects. They speak a different dialect

of the great Polynesian language to that of Tahiti. The islanders navigate among the different groups, partly in native double canoes, and partly in schooners and other modern vessels. The native canoes, of which however, only a few are now used, are about 35 feet long and 4½ feet wide, and two of these are connected by a frame work, on which is placed a deck and sometimes a temporary hut. They are built of wood sewn together and hoist two large mat sails on separate masts. They are strong and have no difficulty in navigating; but sometimes they are blown away in storms and the voyagers are obliged to take refuge on strange islands.

In most of the entrances to harbors in the lagoon islands, there is a strong current or tide which sets in and out alternately about six hours each way. Numerous instances are upon record, of canoes being drifted out of their course, even several hundred miles, by currents and westerly winds. The easterly trade winds generally prevail in the Tuamotus, though not with strict regularity.

Of the vegetable kingdom on the Tuamotus, the most important is the cocoanut palm, the fruit of which serves as the principal food of many of the natives, while the surplus is transformed into cobra and shipped abroad.

The animal kingdom on the group is represented in rats, swine, dogs, cats, goats, fowls, etc., besides numerous insects. On the coast there is an abundance of tortoises or turtles, and on the coral reef pearl oysters.

The Tuamotus were formerly designated on the maps as Paumotu, which in the language of the Tahitians means "island cloud;" but in the language of the group itself it means the "subdued islands." As the inhabitants protested against this appellation, the official name is now (and has been since the French took possession in 1852) Tuamotu or the far off islands.

From the extent of the Archipelago, and the character of the islands, they have been discovered by various navigators, whose voyages have extended over very long series of years. The first who gave any notice of their existence was Pedro Fernandez de Oniros, a Spaniard, who in 1606 saw several islands on the south and north sides of the group. Schouten, a Hollander, who together with Le Maire navigated the great ocean in 1616, discovered several islands in the north part of what is now known as the Tuamotu group which he called the dangerous archipelago, a name by which they are still distinguished by many navigators. Koggewein, another noted explorer, passed through the group in 1722. Subsequently (1765) Commodore Byron, despatched to the Pacific by King George III of England, visited here. He was followed by Captains Wallis and Carteret, also British government explorers, in 1767, then Captain James Cook, in 1769, 1773 and 1774 made important discoveries in the Tuamotus. He was followed by Bonnaville, a French government explorer in 1768; Boenecheo, captain of the Spanish frigate "Sta Maria Magdalena" in 1772 to 1791; Lieutenant Edwards, commander of the British frigate Pandora, in 1791; Captain Bligh of the Bounty in 1792; Captain Wilson of the missionary ship Duff in 1797; and Turnbull, of the Margaret in 1803. All these navigators gave the civilized world some