

GILBERT ISLANDS

(General)

From Western Pacific High Commission Archives

and other sources

(7) Gilbert Islands (1890-1899)

(8) Gilbert Islands (1900-)

For Gilbert Islands before 1870 see in File 1

For Gilbert Islands 1870-1879 see in File 23

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GILBERT ISLANDS

(General)

1890 - 1899

The Sydney Mail: 22.2.1890:422

The Gilbert Islands

Messrs. On Chong and Co's Sydney-owned vessel the George Noble brings later news from a group of islands not much frequented by the trading schooners from this port. She also brings particulars of a wreck not previously reported, and it is feared a considerable loss of life has occurred in connection with the wreck. Captain J. Bowers reports leaving Sydney a little under four months ago on a cruise to the Gilbert Islands. Fine weather was generally experienced, and Hurd's Island, Byron Island, Francis, Clark Island, Tamana, Drummond Island, Taputuooa, Sydenham, Hendeville, Woodle, Hopper, Hall, Tarawa, Matthew, Charlotte, and Butaritari Islands, comprising the group, were touched seriatim. After landing trade at the islands up to Maiana (Hall Island), it was found that copra was in such abundance that the later islands called at were to supply the stations belonging to the vessel's owners. Though the natives are reputed to be treacherous at one or two of the islands, Captain Bowers found them generally hospitable at Taputuooa, for instance. The influence of the traders has had a most beneficial effect, this place being, a very few years since, regarded as one of the places to be shunned, not alone by traders, but by shipwrecked crews. Captain Bowers also mentions that a terrible dread of German warships appeared to have taken possession of the native mind at some of the islands called at, and by way of comparison, he mentions that whenever an English man-of-war visits the group she is met by the canoes putting off with the products of the islands. This aversion to the ships of the Germany navy is doubtless an effect of the visit made some time since to the group, when one of the vessels shelled the villages, and Captain Bowers' opinion as an old master is that it is a pity that the bona-fide British traders are not backed up by the men-of-war on the station when they cruise in the group. The Gilbert Archipelago or Group consists of 15 islands, generally low-lying, no island rising to more than 20ft. above sea-level. Westerly gales, even within the records of old traders, have worn away the land, and places which 25 years ago were fertile cocconut plantations are now covered by the sea. There is some

very fair whaling ground in the group, and a number of American schooners are reported to make it a periodical place of call. The islands extend from Hurd's Island in 2.41 south of the Equator to Makin or Pitt Island in 3.21 north and 172.57 E. During the cruise of the George Noble, the Morning Star, an American vessel, was spoken in the group; also the Golden Fleece, an American vessel. At (Captain Bowers thinks) Butaritari, the most northern island of the group, a wreck had taken place of an American vessel, said to be the Tierdon. Captain Bowers met the master of the vessel, Captain Sachs, who stated that the vessel, whilst trading at the island, drove ashore during a heavy squall. A number of the crew (islanders) lost their lives, and the vessel became a total wreck. There was a quantity of trade on board at the time, but as the survivors did not wish to come on to Australia, expecting a visit from one of the American schooners bound to a Californian port, the George Noble was not availed of. The wreck occurred in the latter part of November, and was reported to the master of the George Noble on his arrival there.

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WRECK IN THE ELLICE GROUP

Sydney Morning Herald 19.2.1890:89.

Having been asked whether the hull of the vessel sighted by him in the Ellice Group resembled the barque Pacific Slope, Captain R. Turpie writes to the Herald:-

"On my arrival at Nuitas, Lynx or Spieden Island, of the Ellice Group, in lat. 6.10 S. and long. 177.26 E, on September 20 last, I found that the bottom of a large ship had been driven on shore there in May or June, 1889. The bow and stern were both destroyed from about 6ft. of tow and mizzen rigging respectively. The wreck was destitute of any marks which would lead to identification. The garboard stake was of a wood strange to me, but not unlike, both in fibre and colour, to some of our close-grained yellowish kauri pine, and was 8in. in thickness. The woodwork appeared to be that of a large and well-built vessel, with yellow-metal bolts some 1½in. in diameter being plentifully used. Nothing attached to the wreck indicated the nature of the cargo she had carried. Proceeding northward to Arorai, or Hurd's Island, in 2.40 S. latitude and 177. E 210 miles N. half W. from the former position, on the 28th September, I found that the topsides, from the turn of the bends, with bow and stern gone, and ballast ports open. Had driven on shore there in May, 1889. The planking is of Oregon pine, and some of it 6in. square, the upper part 6 x 4. She had been coppered to the breast line, and green or copper paint above it to the deep-load line. Her chain plates, deadeyes, and fastenings were those of a substantial, well-built ship of about 1500 or 1700 tons burden. Metal bolts were plentiful in the wreck. The wreckage was first seen a few miles west of Arorai, and canoes went off to it. It eventually reached the reef off the S.E. end of Arorai, and the two portions of the wreck were parts of one three-masted vessel of large size

1890

MUNICIPALITY
of
NORTH SYDNEY

HISTORY AND PROGRESS
from the
EARLIEST SETTLEMENT
1788-1938

By G. V. F. MANN, C.B.E.

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NORTH SYDNEY, 1787 - 1938

The families of Blues and Lavenders were the pioneers of Blue's Point and Lavender Bay. The following record as to the founders of the Blue and Lavender families are contained in the old family Bible of Mrs. S. Chuter, the widow of George Lavender, dated 1857. The Bible was presented to Mrs. S. Chuter, of St. Leonards, by the Voluntary Auxiliary Church of England School in acknowledgment of her support, etc. Signed W. B. Clarke.

WILLIAM BLUE.

William Blue, died May 29, 1834, aged 100 years.

George Lavender, died February 28, 1851, aged 66 years.

Susannah Chuter, died February 6, 1861, aged 66 years.

John Schofield, died 1883, aged 48 years.

Susannah Anne Lavender Schofield, died September 18, 1908, aged 67 years.

John Blue, son of Billy Blue, was born at Circular Quay, July 4, 1815. He died August 24, 1891, aged 76 years.

John Blue's son, John Blue, died June 13, 1863, aged 28 years.

William Blue died December 26, 1868, aged 21 years.

Those who remember Lavender Bay in the '70's and '80's must have been attracted by the beauty of the foreshores. At the head of the Bay to the east side, immediately in front of Christ Church, was Mr. John Carr's beautiful garden, with a natural waterfall and groups of English trees, and Island palms. Mr. Carr's residence, "Neepsend," was a fine stone two-storied building surrounded by the homes of prominent citizens.

Next to "Neepsend" was "Hellespont" at one time occupied by Mr. Buckland. Mr. Carr was a well-known identity. He was originally employed by a Mr. Hopkins who had a ship chandler's store in Sussex Street and lived at Lavender Bay. On the death of Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Carr carried on his business, adopted his daughter and acquired the property in Lavender Bay. Miss Hopkins married Mr. John Buckland, and they had several children, the eldest being the son named John. Mr. Buckland and his family went to England, leaving the eldest son with Mr. Carr, who then lived at "Neepsend." Mr. Carr eventually sold the estate, about 17½ acres, but retained "Hellespont," which he occupied after extensive alterations. Mr. Carr was not an island trader as has been stated. He made his money by the sale of this estate at Lavender Bay, from which his adopted son, John Buckland, received an

EARLY HISTORY AND PROGRESS

income. Known as Jack Buckland, he was a well-known identity of the Bay, where he resided for many years after death of his adopted parents. Then he went to live in Samoa, where he became a friend of Robert Louis Stevenson. He ended his days in a tragic manner. He was examining a cask of gun powder whilst smoking a cigar. An explosion caused his death.

Near "Hellespont," on Carr's estate, was Mr. Charlton's House, "Quiberee," built in 1855, by a stonemason named Montgomery.

Mr. A. M. Charlton, of Hunter's Hill (who is still alive) was born at Lavender Bay 82 years ago, and states that "Quiberie" was built for his grandfather. The house was first occupied by his father, then by Mr. Robert Gilfillan, and later by Mr. A. M. Charlton's family. On Carr's Estate was also "Brenchley," Captain Brown's house, occupied later by Mr. Uther. "Spring House," on Carr's Estate, was occupied by Mr. Molineux and family, and later by Captain Sayers. It was subsequently rebuilt by Mr. Cliff and renamed "Waiwera."

Mr. Carr's beautiful gardens came to an end when the North Shore Railway passed through it. The natural waterfall disappeared many years previously. Mr. A. M. Charlton states that his grandfather and others in the '50's obtained water



Lavender Bay — West Side.

Missionary Herald, May 1891. Letters from the Missions. ✓

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Over 1,000 deaths have occurred in our part of the group from measles. Mr Cottier reports 500 just on Tabiteuea, most of them dying without repentance. Only a small percentage being even church members in revival times.

Missionary Herald, 1891, p.246. ✓

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On Marakei there has been much heathernism Mr Walkup announced. Traders have been selling the natives liquor but have been rebuked and reported by the United States Commercial Agent, A. Rick, to the Secretary of the Navy, who asked for a United States Man of War to visit the Group.

Then word of my touring on Abaiang and Tarawa had reached them, and that I would make a tour of Marakei, thus the traders stopped selling liquor and Mr Kanohe and the few faithful members were encouraged and started six schools.

Hearing this news while on Tarawa, and having a fair wind, we made Marakei in the open boat. The leading trader visited me and said they would not sell liquor and abide by any laws that the Chiefs would make.

Missionary Herald, 1891, p.245. ✓

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Mr Walkup then returned to Abaiang, but soon heard that there was a serious defection at Tarawa. It seems that the King of Abemama, Binoka by name, had sent a party to Tarawa consisting of twenty men with a sort of poem to be chanted with dances, the purpose of which was to extol the King of Tarawa and a concubine King Binoka had sent him. They also advised the people to keep away from the Christian teachers.

Mr Walkup writes: "This party arrived just after the new code of law had been ratified and celebrated with great pomp. The laws had been read and approved by uplifted hands of the people, followed by a march up and down the newly graded street. The poem was talked about, the laws mentioned but the King's vanity overcame him and he decided that as the men from King Binoka were strangers, the laws did not apply to them. Thus they were feasted and listened to, and the King took them all along the island for his people to hear of his renown and to feast them.

On their arrival at the village where Tibwere has his school, and when about to enter the big house, they saw a table with books and got frightened and left."

BUTARITARI: CESSION TO UNITED STATES.

The Friend, April, 1890.

P. 31.

.....The Butaritari chief and people are desirous that the United States flag should be raised on their island before any of the European powers establish a "protectorate" over them. The Star is due here early in May; was due at Kusaie January 14th, according to the plan of the voyage. P.C.Advertiser.

See also Friend for May, 1892, pp. 34-6.

See also Davis Report, pages 42 and 98.

Report on the Gilbert Islands, 1891-1892. ✓

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Abaiang. The King has not enforced his compulsory education laws, therefore the attendance on six government schools have been rather small. One of them has been discontinued.

Many of the Christians have returned to their old heathenish custom of betrothing children from five to ten years old. Sometimes it is a child to a child, quite often it is a child to one three or four times as old. The King has a law against this custom, but does not enforce it.

translation:

Conditions in the Gilbert Islands.

In 1891 the American K.L. Stevenson, resident at Samoa, visited several smaller groups of islands and reported on this in the Sydney paper Daily Telegraph under the heading: Life under the equator. The following report, which describes the dissolution of the old life due to the influence of the white men, has been taken from this article. Stevenson stayed for some time on the island Butaritari, where two San Francisco firms have subsidiaries, the gentlemen Crawford and the Wightman Brothers. They buy south-sea products like copra, sharkskins etc. from the natives. Altogether there are about 15 islands, very flat and covered with coconut palms, mainly atolls. This explains the reason for the drowning of 80 natives at last year's springtide. The most important islands are Great and Little Makin, Kapulonea, Nonuti, Apimama, Maiana, Tarawa, Apiang, Pau, Arorai, Onoatua etc. Most of these are governed by special kings.

The small kingdom of Great and Little Makin, of which Butaritari is part is described as pleasant by the traveller. It has about 2000 subjects and after the death of Tetimarora it was ruled by four brothers, Nakaeia, Nantaitai, Nabakatokia, Tebureimoa, who succeeded each other to the throne. The first of these four was a violent man. He let his subjects work as planters and traders for his own benefit, occasionally he celebrated a feast with them where the brandy flowed freely; he had a harem of women

who served also as oarswomen, to look at them was punishable by death. but he was considered a gentleman when sober. Nanteilei, his successor, always walked about with a pistol in a leatherbag; he hired his 17 haremwomen out as labourers to white people, thus it happened that the brickwork on the harbour dam in Butaritari built by the Wightman brothers, and the veranda was the work of 17 queens. Two hawaiian missionaries, Maka and Kanoa, settled amongst them. First they were tolerated, later threatened then recalled and later they gained influence over the king, so that he and his household accepted Christianity and dissolved his harem. With the release of his 16 queens, of whom two married a sailor who deserted them both later, the king lost his wealth, his power and the friendship of the relatives of the queens. The full effect of this was only felt by his successor. When Nanateitei died from chloroform (poisoning) the revolution started. The 'elders', who had the right to sit in the 'speaking house' with the king and to debate with the king until he wished to end the discussion, were dissatisfied with Nakaeias autocracy, with later changes and the influence of Maka, they persuaded the kings supporters to join them and made the king prisoner. During this time nearly all the kings had been murdered in the group. On Tapituea the skeleton of the last king hangs still in the main 'speakinghouse' of the island. Nabakatokia was more fortunate, he retained his title and his life and only lost his power, while the 'elders' held a big talking feast they changed the laws and made debts for the king. When he died in 1890 one looked full of expectation on the last of the four brothers, Tebureimoa, who is still reigning. He alone

had an adult son, Natiata, and a three year old daughter, he was thought of as the hero of the family and had received the name Natemat, which means corpse, because of his former cruelties. But the once feared now feared the 'elders'. He was weakened by opium. The traveller found him resting on mats on the floor reading the Gilbert Island Bible. As he owns no land apart from the land pawned for rines, he is unable to marry a rich heiress he lives modestly. Foreign traders pay him a 'paxent' commission \$ 100. His subjects ² 2000 ¹ pay head taxes of \$1 per man, $\frac{1}{2}$ per woman, 1sh per child so that with \$S 300 annual income he can cover his modest needs. Thus he could buy his wife a silkdress and a hat of unknown fashion, himself a uniform for \$300 and ~~his~~ have his brothers photograph enlarged for \$250 in San Francisco, pay his debts and still have some money left. As a skilled carpenter he worked occasionally on the woodwork of his palace.

übertragen, in welchem er wächst. Dieses Land Fu-sang mit seinen Schätzen an Gold und Edelsteinen ist ursprünglich genau solch ein mythisches Reich, wie etwa in der deutschen Mythologie Niflheimr, das Nibelungenland, welches auch einfach weit nach dem Norden verlegt und von den Deutschen gewöhnlich in Norwegen lokalisiert wurde, obwohl es in den Heldenjagen noch gar keinen fest bestimmten Platz hat. Ähnlich, wie dieses, wurde auch das chinesische Fu-sang ursprünglich als ein Fabelland 20000 Li nach Osten verlegt, bis man es später mehr lokalisierte und nun wohl die Insel Sachalin oder Krasno darunter verstand.

Die Zustände auf den Gilbertinseln.

Der auf Samoa ansässige Amerikaner N. L. Stevenson hat im Jahre 1891 verschiedene kleinere Inselgruppen der Südsee besucht und darüber, unter dem Titel *Life under the Equator*, in dem zu Sydney erscheinenden *Daily Telegraph* berichtet. Das im nachstehenden Mitgeteilte, welches die Verfassung des altheimischen Lebens durch den Einfluß der Weißen schildert, ist diesen Berichten entnommen. Stevenson nahm einen längeren Aufenthalt auf der Insel Butaritari, wo zwei Firmen aus San Francisco, die Herren Crawford und Wightman Brothers, Handelsniederlassungen haben und Südseeprodukte wie Kopro, Haifischflossen zc. von den Eingeborenen einkaufen. Es sind im ganzen etwa 15 ganz flache, mit Kokosnusspalmen bedeckte Inseln, meist Atolls, wodurch sich auch der Untergang von 80 Eingeborenen, bei Gelegenheit der im vorigen Jahre erfolgten Springflut, erklärt; die wichtigsten sind Groß- und Klein-Matin, Tapulonea, Konuti, Apimama, Maiana, Tarawa, Apiang, Pau, Arorai, Onoatoa zc., die meist unter befondern Königen stehen.

Von einem dieser kleinen Königreiche Groß- und Klein-Matin, zu dem Butaritari gehört, entwirft der Reisende eine anziehende Schilderung. Es umfaßt etwa 2000 Unterthanen und stand nach dem Tode Tetimaroras unter vier Brüdern, Nakacia, Nanteitei, Rabakatofia, Tebureimoa, die der Reihe nach einander auf dem Throne folgten. Der erste dieser vier Brüder war ein gewaltthätiger Herr, ließ seine Unterthanen als Kaufmann und Pflanzer für sich arbeiten, feierte auch gelegentlich Gelage mit ihnen, bei denen der Branntweinflöß, hielt sich einen Harem von Frauen, die ihm zugleich als Ruderinnen dienten und bei Todesstrafe von keinem angesehen werden durften, galt aber bei allen als vollkommener Gentleman — wenn er nüchtern war. — Nanteitei, sein Nachfolger, ging stets mit dem Revolver im Lederbeutel umher, vermiethete seinen aus 17 Frauen bestehenden Harem auch zu Handwerkerdiensten an Weiße, wie denn die Maurerarbeit an dem von der Firma Wightman erbauten Hafendamm in Butaritari und der Verandaß das Werk der 17 Königinnen war. Unter ihm ließen sich zwei hawaiische Missionare, Mafa und Kanoa, daselbst nieder, die anfangs geduldet, später bedroht, dann wieder zurückberufen wurden und endlich Einfluß auf den König gewannen, so daß dieser mit seinem Hause zum Christentum übertrat und seinen Harem auflöste. Durch die Entlassung von 16 Königinnen, von denen zwei später einen Matrosen aus Hawaii heirateten, nacheinander aber von ihm verstoßen wurden, verlor der König seinen Wohlstand, seine Macht und die Freundschaft der Verwandten der Königinnen, was aber erst seinem Nachfolger fühlbarer wurde. Als Nanteitei an Chloroform starb, brach die Revolution aus. Die „Älten“, die früher das Recht hatten, in dem „Sprechhause“ mit dem Könige zu sitzen und zu debattieren, bis dieser Schluß machte, unzufrieden mit

Nakacias Alleinhererschaft, mit den späteren Veränderungen und Mafas Einfluß, machten dem Könige seinen Anhang abspenstig und nahmen ihn gefangen. — In der Zeit waren fast überall in der Gruppe die Könige ermordet und auf Tapitua hängt noch jetzt das Skelett des letzten Königs im Hauptprechhause der Insel; Rabakatofia war glücklicher, behielt sein Leben und Titel und verlor nur seine Macht, während die „Älten“ ein großes Sprechfest feierten, die Gesetze änderten und den König in Schutzeln stützten. Als er 1890 starb, sah man erwartungsvoll auf den letzten der vier Brüder, den noch jetzt regierenden Tebureimoa, der allein einen erwachsenen Sohn Natiata und eine dreijährige Tochter hatte, als Heib der Familie galt und in früheren Zeiten durch grausame Gewaltthaten sich den Beinamen Matemat, d. h. Leichnam, erwarb. Aber der einst so Gefürchtete fürchtete jetzt, durch Opiumgenuß geschwächt, die Älten. — Der Reisende traf ihn auf Matten am Boden liegend und in der Gilbertinselnbibel lesend. — Da er außer dem Rießbrauch der für Geldstrafen verpfändeten Ländereien kein Land besitzt, er auch nicht mehr reiche Erbinnen heiraten kann, geht er sparsam zu Wege. Fremde Händler zahlen ihm für ein Patent 100 Doll., seine 2000 Unterthanen Kopfsteuern von 1 Doll. pro Mann, 1/2 Doll. pro Frau, 1 Schill. pro Kind, so daß er mit seinen 300 Pfd. Sterl. Jahreseinkommen seine bescheidenen Bedürfnisse bestreiten kann, wie er denn seiner Frau ein Seidenkleid und einen Hut von unbekannter Mode, sich selbst für 300 Doll. eine Uniform kaufte, seines Bruders Photographie in San Francisco für 250 Doll. vergrößern ließ, dessen Schulden bezahlte und doch noch Geld behielt. Als geschickter Zimmermann arbeitet er gelegentlich am Holzwerke seines Palastes.

Dr. A. Volkmer.

Wandlungen im sogenannten Chinook-Jargon.

Die Sprachforscher kennen genugsam jene Mischsprache, welche sich am Oregon auf der Küste des westlichen Nordamerika als Verständigungsmittel zwischen den Indianern und den Pelzhändlern herausgebildet hat. Wir besitzen darüber zwei Arbeiten, von denen die eine, erschienen in Washington 1863, von George Gibbs (*A dictionary of the Chinook-Jargon or trade language of Oregon in the Smithsonian miscellaneous collections* 161), die andere, erschienen in London 1890, von Horatio Hale (*An international idiom. A Manual of the Oregon trade language*) herrührt. In neuester Zeit hat Franz Boas (*Worcester, Mass.*) die Gegenden, wo das Chinook-Jargon gesprochen wird, besucht und seine Beobachtungen darüber in der *New Yorker Wochenschrift Science* (4. März 1892) mitgeteilt. Nach Boas wird diese Mischsprache besonders am Puget Sound und in Britisch-Kolumbia gesprochen, während ihr Gebrauch am Flusse Columbia und in den benachbarten Territorien, Washington und Oregon, immer mehr beschränkt wird. Doch wird die Sprache im Norden bis zum Chiklat und im Süden bis zum nördlichen Kalifornien verstanden. Die Sprache am Puget Sound soll manche Wörter nicht mehr enthalten, welche die gedruckten Quellen verzeichnen, und umgekehrt sollen sich in dem Misch-Jargon noch Wörter finden, die aus der reinen Chinook-Sprache ganz verschwunden sind. Das letztere geschah wegen der Sitte, daß man die Wörter, welche den Namen Verstorbener gleichen oder an sie erinnern, aus der Sprache fallen läßt. Dem gegenüber finden sich andere neue Wörter, welche in den gedruckten Quellen nicht vorkommen, so daß ein immerwährender Fluß auf dem Gebiete dieser Mischsprache beobachtet werden kann.

Friedrich Müller.

'Cities of Refuge are found not only in Hawaii but in the Gilberts, where their name is now invariably used for a mosquito net. But the refuge in the Gilberts was only a house in a village, and only offered, like European churches, a sanctuary for the time. The hunted man might harbour there and live on charity; woe to him, if he stepped without.'

Stevenson, R.L. 'The South Seas: a record of three cruises'.
XXII - The City of Refuge. Black and White, vol.11, no.34
(26.9.91), p.440.

Missionary Herald, July 1892, p.285. ✓

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Mr Walkup writing on Abemama:

The old King Binoka had died before our arrival, but the brother now reigning is as stubborn a heathen as Binoka was.

Moses and the small band of Christians have not been molested or gained the disfavour of the King, and I fear by their timidity they have not gained his respect.

Missionary Herald, June 1892; Editorial paragraph. ✓

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The secular papers have referred to the coming of the King of Butaritari, one of the Gilbert Islands, to San Francisco. We have received from the Rev. Hiram Bingham, who has just reached this country, a brief account of an interview with the King while at San Francisco.

No person in America knows so much about the Gilbert Islands as does Mr Bingham. He reports that the King, Nantemate by name, welcomed him most cordially when he called and stated to him the object of his visit. The King was accompanied by his uncle and a young man, a near relative, all of them are Christian men and recent reports from Butaritari have spoken warmly of their Christian activities. It seems that the King dreads very much the possibility that Germany may take possession of the Gilbert Islands, as she has already done of the Marshall Islands.

The conduct of the German Men of War who have visited Butaritari offended the King, and he has decided, if possible, to secure a protectorate by the United States over the two islands which he rules. It is for the purpose of obtaining this protectorate that the King came to the United States. He left his request in the hands of Colonel C.E. Daley, who has been commissioned to represent the case to the authorities at Washington. It is doubtful if he will have much success in his mission.

We regret to add that the uncle of the King died while at San Francisco. The King was soon to return to Butaritari.

GILBERT ISLANDS: DECLARATION OF PROTECTORATE

SS to HC, Confidential, of 5.4.92: "representation addressed to the Foreign Office by the German Ambassador at this Court in July last expressing the wish of the German Government that this country should declare a protectorate over the Kingsmill or Gilbert group on the ground that it was necessary that some kind of authority should be exercised there to maintain order.

2. It was subsequently represented that the United States Government were endeavouring to make treaties with the native chiefs, and that irregularities, similar to those referred to in the enclosure to your despatch, continued to occur in the labour traffic in the group as carried on by American vessels."

Therefore insts given to Adm to establish prot when end hurricane season permits sending warship.

Requests views on proposal that engagement of Gilbertese to work on German plantations in Samoa shd be permitted & how best to be supervised by Consul there, possibly by system similar to Convention of 1861 between UK & France regulating emigration of coolie labour to Fr colonies.

Proposed to, subject to acquiescence of native chiefs, appoint Resident for maintenance of order on fixed salary perhaps wholly or partly recoverable from local contributions. Maybe Gs too scattered to admit of Council of native chiefs as in Cook Islands. "But unless the chiefs confer on the Resident in the Gilbert Islands express authority by convention or agreement in matters affecting persons other than British subjects, it would be as well that in such cases, his action should, as far as is practicable, take the form of advising and directing the action to be taken by the chiefs themselves; in fact that, in so far as it is necessary for him to appear as an active agent at all, it should be as the delegate and representative of native authority."

Requests advice on salary for tackling Treasury - also provision for transport, additional staff and how far these and other exs. could be met by voluntary contributions from the chiefs and others. You have already recd moderate trading license & poll tax, presumably ~~collected~~ imposed by authority of native chiefs, and collected by native agency in the name and under the direction of the Resident.

Trs copy of insts issued to Mess by Earl of Onslow re Cook Group

Enc (1) FO to CO, 6.7.91: German Ambassador expressed on 3.7.91 wish of his Govt that UK shd declare Prot.

Enc (2) FO to CO, 18.7.91: G Ambassador informs that G Govt have recd information that the US Govt are trying to make treaties with the native chiefs of the Gilberts - hope HM Govt will assume prot. to prevent US Govt from obtaining footing there. FO asks immediate attention as if Prot is to be proclaimed no time shd be lost.

Enc (3) FO to CO conf., 23.10.91: "In a verbal communication of a strictly confidential nature, the German Ambassador has again called Lord Salisbury's attention to the steps taken by the United States to extend their commercial relations with the Gilbert Islands.

His Excellency's information on the subject is derived partly from newspaper accounts, but also from official reports addressed to the German Government. The islands are constantly visited by American ships, which embark coolies for South America and the Sandwich Islands and it is thought that the United States Government may not improbably be induced by American traders to enter into negotiations with the native chiefs and to make treaties with them. By this means other powers would be precluded from assuming a protectorate over the islands.

The German Government are averse to ~~such~~ any such proceeding. They wish to keep the market open for the supply of labourers to the German plantations in Samoa, and they are unwilling that an excessive number of coolies should be exported to distant countries without the exercise of a proper control over the emigration.

As the Gilbert Islands are within the British sphere of interest, the German Government were unable to accede to the request made to them by the white merchants there in 1888 for the establishment of a German protectorate. They consider, however, that the interests of Great Britain and Germany are identical in this matter, and Count Hatzfeldt has been instructed to enquire whether Her Majesty's Government will consider the question of taking the islands under their protection, on the understanding that no objection will be made in that case to the exportation of a limited number of labourers under recognised official restrictions."

Refers to previous corres and again requests CO opinion on proposals.

Enc (4) Adm to CO, 5.1.92: No recent inf in the records of the Adm to affect this proposition. "From a naval point of view no advantage would result from the annexation of these Islands as they are merely coral reefs raised little above the level of the sea, their productive powers are poor and their population subsist mainly on fish."

Enc (5) FO to CO, 8.1.92: refers to Adm letter, from which it would "not appear that these islands would be a very valuable acquisition for this country" - but inhabitants mostly Christian, Eng and Amer mission stations, but German traders.

"It will be seen from my letter of October 23 last that the chief object which the German Government have in view is to keep the labour market open for the supply of labourers to the German plantations in Samoa, and it is for the Colonial Office to consider how far, in the event of a British Protectorate being proclaimed, the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific will be in a position to provide for the due and proper regulations of such traffic."

Adm state no naval advantage & is so remote from Sydney that special arrangements would ~~be~~ have to be made for visiting them. But they

lie within Br sphere of influence laid down in 1886 "and in the event of its being decided that the obligation of a British protectorate would outweigh its advantages, it appears to Lord Salisbury that Her Majesty's Government will have no alternative but to consent to their incorporation within the limits of the sphere of German influence, should the German Government, as seems probable, be desirous of acquiring them."

Enc (6) CO to FO, 21.1.92: "I am to state that, as the Marquis of Salisbury is of the opinion that, unless H.M.'s protectorate is declared over these islands, there would be no alternative but to consent to their incorporation within the limits of the sphere of German influence, Lord Knutsford has no hesitation in advising that the German Government should be informed that Her Majesty's Government will establish a protectorate over the islands, and that steps should be taken by the Admiralty to give effect to this decision."

Necess to consider how far the HC can provide for the due ~~reg~~ reg of labour traffic among Gilberts.

1886 demarcation not followed by UK by any general annexation or estab of protectorates within UK limits though Louisiade Group annexed to NG " and a protectorate has been recently established over the Phoenix Group in view of the possible utility of these islands in case a cable is laid between Vancouver and Australia."

Therefore new and difficult task for HC to regulate labour traffic without staff or means of communication & probably naval officers as DCs will have to supervise. Gilbertese labour in Samoa cld be watched fairly well by HMs officers in Samoa. Probably more important to watch treatment on plantations than to regulate carrying away of natives from is.

"Lord Knutsford, therefore, while anticipating some difficulties in the matter, does not consider that they will be very ~~ser~~ serious; and in any case would prefer that they should be met rather than that the Gilbert Islands should be handed over to Germany."

Enc (7) FO to CO, secret, 23.1.92: FO agrees advisability estab prot - suggest admiralty shd be moved to proceed with secrecy and despatch.

Consul cld only regulate labour traffic as DC therefore necessary insts shd emanate from CO.

German Ambassador will not be informed until a ship of war actually despatched "as secrecy is essential to prevent possible complications with other Powers".

Enc (8) CO to Adm., 31.1.92: refers to form of Proclamation for such cases settled by the Law Officers in August 1889 and which shd be used by the Naval Officer establishing Prot.

Before issuing proc. he shd ascertain as far as possible that no evidence of any foreign power claiming islands - this does not apply to Germany (1886 agreement).

"The officer should then issue the proclamation but before doing so he should endeavour to come to a friendly understanding with the natives and should explain the nature of the step which he is about to take and that as a result they will be entitled to the protection of Her Majesty's Government against violence and injustice; that it is not proposed to levy any taxes upon them except with their consent, or to interfere with their laws or customs so far as they relate to natives only."

Natives shd also be invited, for their own better protection, to pay the cost of maintaining a Br Res, but no such payment wld be compulsorily enacted, and if made it cld be taken partly or wholly in the shape of local produce, such as copra. Similar course taken in case of Rotuma.

Officer shd gain all inf he can as to islands and inhabs. amt of emigration which goes on and places to which labs go. "He should also warn the natives against American recruiting vessels as Her Majesty's Government have no means of protecting them if they go away from the Pacific."

Enc (9) Adm to ~~Confidential~~ Lord Charles Scott, conf., 5.2.92: Confirms tel "Orders go by mail 5th February for vessel to proceed Gilbert Islands immediately after hurricane season to place them under British protection. Have vessel ready accordingly."

Use form of Proclamation given at page 75 Appendix XXV of the Australian Order Book.

Enc (10) CO to FO, 9.2.92: precise extent to which Consul shd supervise treatment of labourers matter which requires much consideration, but suggested that by arrangement with G Govt he shd visit labour ships on arrival enquire into complaints and see contracts; & visit men when desires.

Lord Knutsfors's attention has since last letter been called to Thurston's conf letter of 3.5.89 (printed at p.4 of FO Pac Is print 5932) proposing treaty with natives of Gilbert Is, and appt of Resident in name of Queen, all necessary expenditure to be defrayed by natives. Obviously necessary in first instance that cost met from Imperial funds, to be recouped wholly or in part from native contributions.

Enc (11) FO to CO, 13.2.92: FO agrees generally in course which it is proposed to pursue both as regards powers to be conferred

on Consul and steps to be taken for establishing Br Res in Gilberts.

.....

H.M.S. "Royalist".

The Navy List for July 1892 gives -

"424 Royalist, 12. Screw Cruiser, 3rd Class.

1420 tons. 1510 H.P."

Recommissioned at Sydney, 10th December, 1889.

Gives list of Officers.

Confidential

No. 1182.

Admiralty,
5th February, 1892.

My Lord,

Referring to my telegram No. 8 of 2nd instant, of which the following is the decipher,-

Orders go by mail, 5th Feby, for Vessel to proceed Gilbert Islands immediately after hurricane season to place them under British protection. Have vessel ready accordingly.

I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith for your information and guidance, copy of a letter from the Colonial Office, dated 31st ultimo, together with copy of its enclosure, on this subject.

2. In giving the necessary orders to the Commanding Officer of the Ship you may select for this service, you are to direct him to carry out the wishes of the Secretary of State for the Colonies as set forth in the accompanying letter using the form of Proclamation of a Protectorate given at page 75, Appendix XXV, of the Australian Order Book.

3. The names of the Islands comprising the Gilbert Group are Arorai, Tamana, Onoatua, Peru, Nukunau, Taputeaba, Nonuti, Kuria, Aranuka, Apamama, Maiana, Tarawa, Apaiang, Maraki, Taritari, and Makin.

4. My Lords will be glad to learn by telegraph the name of the vessel you propose to detail for this duty as well as well as the approximate date when she will leave Sydney or elsewhere for the locality in question.

I am,

My Lord,
Your obedient servant,
Evan Macgregor.

Rear Admiral

The Lord Charles Scott, ^{C.} P.B.,

&c. &c. &c.

Australia.

Copy

Enclosure to Adm. Letter M 1182 of 5 Feby/92 to Australia.

Downing Street,
31st Januray, 1892.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 25th inst. and to previous correspondence respecting the proposed establishment of a British Protectorate over the Gilbert Islands I am directed by Lord Knutsford to request that you will refer the Lords Comms. of the Admiralty to the form of proclamation for such cases which was settled by the Law Officers in Augt 1889, and which should be used by the Naval Officer who declares the Protectorate, and which it will be seen is framed to meet the case of taking under Her Majesty's protection either a single island or a group of islands.

2. The Naval Officer should, however, before issuing the Proclamation, ascertain as far as possible that no evidence exists in the Group of any Foreign Power having made any claim over the Islands. Such enquiries would, however, not apply to Germany, as by the Agreement of 1886 for the demarcation of spheres of influence the Gilbert Islands are within the sphere assigned to this country.

3. The officer should then issue the proclamation, but before doing so he should endeavour to come to a friendly understanding with the natives, and should explain the nature of the step which he is about to take, and that, as a result, they will be entitled to the protection of Her Majesty's Government against violence and injustice, that it is not proposed to levy any taxes upon them, except with their consent, or to interfere with their

laws or customs so far as they relate to natives only.

4. The natives should also be invited for their own better protection, to pay the cost of maintaining a British Resident in the Group, but no such payment would be compulsorily exacted and if made, it could be taken partly or wholly in the shape of local produce such as copra.

Upon this point I am to refer you to paragraphs 41 & 42 of the Despatch from Sir J. Thurston of May 3, 1889, a copy of which is enclosed.

The officer should gain all the information he can as to the islands and their inhabitants, and as to the amount of ~~immigration~~ emigration which goes on and the places to which the labourers are taken. He should also warn the natives against American recruiting vessels as Her Majesty's Government have no means of protecting them if they go away from the Pacific.

I am

Jc

(sd) John Bramston

Extract from a Despatch from Sir J.B. Thurston to Lord Knutsford, dated Fiji, May 3, 1889 (Confidential).

.....

41. The Gilbert Group and islanders are well known to me, and in urging that Her Majesty's Govt. may be enabled to place a Gunboat at my service, as High Commissioner and Consul-General, for nine months in the year, I would also request its sanction to ~~make~~ upon behalf of Her Majesty, a Treaty or Treaties with the respective Gilbert and Ellice Islands Chiefs providing for the freedom and better regulation of trade, and for the acceptance by them of a Resident appointed by, or in the name of, Her Majesty, to aid and advise them in the administration of their affairs.

42. To meet the expenses of such an administration, the natives would, I believe, willingly make an annual contribution in copra to be accepted by the administration at its full value (as is the case in Fiji, where native taxes are paid in kind) to be ascertained by tender, or other practical form of competition. This with the imposition of a moderate trading licence, and poll tax of not exceeding £1 per annum upon Foreign residents, would suffice to cover all necessary expenses.

.....

To R L S

From Southern Seas, in page of Black and White,
Thy lovers, sojourning 'neath paler light,
 Welcome thy message, dream of palm-girt shore,
 And long Pacific rollers' muffled roar,
And murmuring of waters infinite.
And yet we feel thou'rt lost to more than sight
In languorous charm of Polynesian night,
 And fain would call thee home to Skerryvore
 From Southern Seas.

Of Tamatea's fate, the awful might
Of tropic vengeance, and Rahero's flight
 We read; but wilt thou weave as nevermore
 Soho's romances, and the unsung lore
Of London streets? Come home, for our delight,
 From Southern Seas.

Coelabs

Black and White, vol.II, no.44 (5.12.1891), p.757.

Stevenson's South Sea sketches were evidently not appreciated and only two more issues appeared in Black and White, the last being in Vol.II, no.46 (19.12.1891), p.814.

They got him no farther than Molokai on his travels.

.....

Gilbert and Ellice Islands: Establishment of Protectorate

From Denjeh Scan, Ch. 8

- (1) Feb. 1888 Thornto becomes HC. May 1889 concerned about reports of German designs on the Gilbert Islands. Suggests DC at Mahera Harbor or Uye, Solomon, responsible also for G & E; treaties to be made with local authorities which would provide for acceptance & for financial maintenance of a British Resident. But no making of mutual promises or extra expenditure.
- (2) July 1891 Germany herself urges GB to declare a protectorate over the Gilberts, as she understood that US contemplated making local treaties there and feared that she might thus be cut off from one of the DHPG's recruiting grounds.
- (3) Point constantly stressed by Germany in ensuing months, or assumption that Britain would not interfere with recruiting for Samoa.²
- (4) CO felt as no official for protection from Gilberts & her Fudlag (only source of information in CO) islands did not appear potentially reliable persons.³
- (5) Only when CO realized that alternative was to permit Germany to take group, the tearing up of 1886 agreement & wishing violent protests from Australasia, was Adm asked (in Jan. 1892) to raise Prot flag. 12 Sept. extended to Ellice.⁵
- (6) Legal authority that conferred by the consolidated POC, March 1893, giving increased power & independence to DCA. Prot put a sound legal basis by entering into treaties with island governments. Main question financial solvency of Prot.
- (7) Protection rather than annexation resulted to "as a matter of convenience, enabling us to shuffle off what may prove to be unnecessary for us to hold".⁶ No extra expense to fall on Imperial funds, & no responsibility

to be resumed unless cost could be met from local resources.⁷
Local administration was of essentially self-governing nature
communities acting under advice of a Resident- (& paying his
salary & exp)⁸ who would deal with foreign residents directly.

(8) No ranches from Navarro (1886) to Royalist (1892). Tavea
still in civil war; Taliteua of just ceased. Europeans full
of complaints of theft or taking. On Butaritari 22 of 77 EO,
divided into sections.

(9) On islands to Allenara Uea appointed + Koulau. Thurston's²
visits in August & December 1893. Petine Lora an
amalgamation & codification by Thurston of existing codes, collected
by Swayne, retouched & amended by HC, & submitted to co. govt.
for adoption after discussion.³

(10) Colony paid for itself by capitation tax payable in copra and various
beverages on EO and trading vessels.⁹ CR Swayne 20 years as stipendiary
Magistrate at Lona Lona.¹⁰ Offd SM for Lora by Gordon, he was
only a resident from Fiji to WPHC

(11) "Initially, however, there was some difficulty in this respect [making
Colony pay for itself]. Late in 1893 Swayne found that all the islands
south of the Line were very much depressed through lack of rain; little
copra was being made, and there was no hope of collecting the native
tax in the following year.¹⁰ Moreover, on Butaritari, the largest
island, there were other claims outstanding which, in the interests
of harmony, had to be settled before government took its share.
Petitions had been at once received, when the Protectorate was declared,
from resident traders for payment of debts owing to them from the

B.C.'s salary is borne on
H.C.'s rate via Lona
of 1894-5 copra production

Gilbertese. Before the flag was hoisted, trade had been conducted in the Gilbert Islands on a credit basis; goods which resident traders took on account from visiting ships were disposed of to the people on promise of future payment in copra. On Butaritari, which was the local headquarters of all the four firms then engaged in the group - Wightman Brothers and Crawford and Co. of San Francisco, the Jaluit Gesellschaft, and Ong Chong and Co. of Sydney - the so-called 'clip' system had been introduced: trade goods were advanced in return for a lien on the produce of a particular grove of trees. The U.S. Commercial Agent and manage for Wightman Brothers, Adolphe Rick, had grown especially fat on this system, making profits of several hundred per cent. And claims were immediately laid before the Resident to copra still outstanding to the value of \$32,434, of which the Gilbertese acknowledged to owing \$23,937 at any rate. A tabu had to be placed upon the sale of copra until enough had been collected to pay off those claimants who were able to establish their case at an enquiry before the Resident. "

The Butaritari debts were the major single legacy of the ~~protect~~ pre-Protectorate period which remained for the Resident to settle. During the rest of his two year appointment, Swayne - whose principles of native government derived from over twenty years experience as Stipendiary Magistrate at Loma Lome - was chiefly occupied in putting the island governments to work along lines of which British authority could approve. In the southern islands he found the democratic tradition so strong ~~the~~ that it was difficult to induce the Kaubure to appoint Magistrates, whilst on the northern islands the Uea constituted foci of disorder. With these problems Swayne dealt energetically, appointing

Magistrates himself, and under Article of the Pacific Order in Council deporting first the Uea of Maraki to Fiji and then the Uea of Tarawa to Rotuma.¹² Governments had to be taught to enforce the law with an even hand, regardless of the power of a culprit's family. At Maina in 1894, for instance, he insisted that a man should be tried for murder, that the Kaubure themselves should arrive at a decision, and that the sentence prescribed should be carried out.¹³ The foreign population, which was directly answerable to the Resident, was not at this time giving much trouble.¹⁴

At this stage ~~of the~~ in the Protectorate's history, the Resident essentially peripatetic. With nominal headquarters at Butaritari, he travelled through the Protectorate in a trading steamer or, when available, in a warship. This enabled him to spend only a short time on each island, and involved constant motion also between Butaritari, Sydney, and Suva. But early in 1895 the decision was taken to erect a Residency on Betio islet in the Tarawa lagoon.¹⁵ By the following year Swayne's successor, W. Telfer Campbell, was established there, training a Protectorate force and already looking with a jaundiced eye upon the proceedings of the various Missions and beachcombers of whose attentions the islands were the recipients.¹⁶ By that time, moreover, the Resident's expenses were being met by local taxes."

(12) Pacific Islands (1902) Company began mining for phosphate on OI in 1904, providing attractive labor market to Samoa & Central America.¹⁷ Large increase in gum revenue. Headquarters moved to Ocean Island in 1908.¹⁸

(13) In 1896 Campbell advises Uea of Tarawa to be more faithful in collecting

the islands' affairs and assured him "that in carrying out the Regulations and studying the welfare of his people he will always receive the strongest support of the Protectorate Government".¹⁹

- (14) By 1897 Campbell considered islands required more immediate and permanent supervision than he could provide and proposed employing European assistants where most needed. By 1901, despite H.C.'s opposition, he had agents in Butantan, Tabiteuea, Alesonara and Bevu, with salaries drawn from local funds and not officially included as Protectorate staff. Not till 1908 did H.C. approve. Between 1901 & 1906 Campbell not even asked for Annual Report & after 1900 H.C. interaction fell off & idiosyncratic.
- (15) by H.C. to visit Gallito, about from Thunator, was in Thun in 1908. Indirectly visited G & EIP trail (Ellis & Mearns on Tau in 1911; Gallito in 1913).
- (16) In 1911 Sir Francis May advised separation of WPHC territories from supervision of Gen. of Fiji & recd the G & EIP should be under overall control of H.C. resident at Taloga - May to C.O., 6.12.11 - WPHC Despatches to S.O.S.

Footnotes

- 1 Thurstor to CO 3.5.89 (Confidential) - WPHC Confidential Despatches to S.O.S. - Thurstor
- 2 FO to CO 6.7.91 - CO 225/37; idem 18.7.91 - ibid; idem 20.8.91 - ibid; idem 23.10.91 - ibid.
- 3 Minute by Fuller 10.7.91 or FO to CO 6.7.91 loc.cit.
- 4 CO minutes on FO to CO 8.1.92 - CO 225/41; see especially Herbert's minute ibid: "The idea of transferring these Islands into the German sphere & so tearing up the settlement with Germany which grew out of the 'intrusion' of Germany into New Guinea, cannot for a moment be entertained. The Australasian Colonists would look upon it as a breach of faith tantamounting to a declaration of war in all directions to Foreign Powers".
- 5 CO to Adm 31.1.92 (draft), or Adm to CO 25.1.92 - CO 225/40.
- 6 Minute by Fuller or Thurstor to CO 1.10.92 - CO 225/39.
- 7 Extract of minute by Roper 24.12.92, filed with Thurstor to CO 21.11.92 (Confidential) - CO 225/39.
- 8 Thurstor to CO 12.8.95 - CO 225/49; Swayne to Thurstor 29.12.93 - WPHC - Board Correspondence, General, no. 27 of 1894; idem 12.8.94 - ibid, no. 202 of 1894. "It... offered to be my duty to avail myself of such local organization as the natives with the aid of missionaries had themselves set

set up, and to improve it from time to time as the people advanced in civilization, and as other circumstances would permit" - Thurston.

- 9 Thurston to CO 2.9.92 - WPHC - Despatches to SOS
- 10 Swayne to Thurston 22.12.93 - WPHC - Board Conference, General, no. 22 of 1894.
- 11 Swayne to Thurston 21.12.93 - loc. cit.; idem 13.3.94, with encls. - ibid, no. 105 of 1894; idem 7.8.94 - ibid, no. 198 of 1894.
- 12 Swayne to Thurston 29.12.93 - WPHC - Board Conference, General, no. 27 of 1894; idem 7.8.94 - ibid, no. 198 of 1894; idem 10.8.94 - ibid, no. 201 of 1894. The Uca were deported for disturbing the peace of their islands by passing football bands.
- 13 Swayne to Thurston 19.1.95 - ibid, no. 41 of 1895.
- 14 see, however, Swayne to Berkeley 1.7.95 - ibid, no. 215 of 1895.
- 15 Swayne to Thurston 26.1.95 on the possible sites for a Residency - ibid, no. 47 of 1895.
- 16 Conkell to Berkeley 28.3.96 - ibid, no. 209 of 1896. The new RC had served in British NG, vide MacGregor, as RM in the Lousiade Archipelago (see Conkell to Thurston 10.8.93 - ibid, no. 183 of 1893).

17 Never any formal agreement between H.N.G. & Germany that D.H.P.S. should be allowed to control recruiting in G & E for Samoa. They were, however, allowed to do so on condition that labour was, as Br protected subjects, employed only on terms approved by DC at Apia & was under his jurisdiction. Hitherto they had had no appeal from D.H.P.G. except to German Consulate who suggested firm to halt. Change rapidly led German firm to cease employing G & E labour in its plantations because, as DC reported: "They find that without the whip, and imprisonment and more they cannot get the same amount of work out of the Gilbertese Islanders as formerly" - Croack Smith to Thurston 17.10.94 - British Consul, Samoa, Series 5, XXII.

18 Memorandum by Kellogg, August 1909, incl. in Mr Thurston to CO 29.9.09 - CO 225/86.

19 Campbell to Thurston, 2 d. - ibid, no. 214 of 1896.

20 Campbell to Berkeley 9.6.97 - ibid, no. 403 of 1897; Campbell to O'Brien 11.4.99 - ibid, no. 188 of 1899; ibid; WPHC Board Unemployed, General, no. 129 of 1902

Secret

"Orlando", at Sydney.
22nd April 1892.

Memo

In accordance with secret orders from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty you are to ~~proceed~~ visit the Gilbert Islands, and place them under British Protection, using for this purpose the forms given in Appendix XXV of the Australian Station Order Book.

The Protectorate is only to be declared if they are not already occupied and claimed by other Powers but I have no information as to such claims.

2. Attached will be found a copy of a Confidential Admiral letter of 5 February 1892 ^{No.} ~~T182~~ ⁶⁰¹ containing directions as to how this ^{service} ~~arrangement~~ is to be performed.

This letter is to be returned to me when the duty has been performed.

(Sd.) S.S. Scott
Rear Admiral.
Commander in Chief.

Captain
E.H.M. Davis, R.N.,
H.M.S. "Royalist".

Confidential

5 April 1892

My Lord,

With reference to my letter of the 5th February No.1182,
I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to
acquaint you that the following telegram was sent to you this
day. -

With reference to my letter 5 February ~~1182~~^{No.} when ship goes
to Gilbert Islands direct Commanding Officer declare under
protectorate of Britain Gardner Island Phoenix Group and
also over Danger and Nassau Islands if not already
occupied and claimed by other Powers. Acknowledge
receipt of this by telegraph.

I am, My Lord,
Your obedient servant,

Evan Macgregor

Rear Admiral

The Lord Charles Scott, C.B.,

&c &c &c

Australian Station.

Notes by Librarian, Royal Empire Society, on Report on the
Gilbert and Ellice Islands by Captain E.H.M. Davis, 1892.

This Report has been in the Library of the Society since at least 1922 and is interesting not only for its contents but because it has certain manuscript notes made, apparently, by an informed hand. The origin of the Report, however, has proved hard to discover. In reply to a letter of enquiry the Admiralty Record Office wrote on November 29th, 1957 -

'With reference to your letter dated 31st October, 1957, I am to inform you that the papers relating to the declaration of a British Protectorate over the Gilbert Islands, together with a report by Captain Davis, R.N., of H.M.S. Royalist, may be found at the Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, under the title Z.172/1892 in box reference ADM 1/7113'.

On investigation of the material referred to, I have found that this includes a printed version made by the Foreign Office for confidential use and numbered 6269. This covers 147 pages and is similar to, but by no means identical with, the version held by the Royal Empire Society. The main differences, apart from methods of setting out, size of type, etc., are as follows:

E
ITEMS IN F.O. 6269 NOT IN ROYAL EMPIRE SOCIETY COPY

- p.1 Colonial Office to Foreign Office, 10th November, 1892, transmitting reports from Commander-in-Chief, Australian station.
- pp.4-5 Scott to Davis, 26th April, 1892; Admiralty to Scott, 5th February, 1892; Colonial Office to Admiralty, 31st January, 1892; Thurston to Knutsford, 31st May, 1889; (each of these was enclosed in the item preceding it).
- pp.54-5. Residents of Butaritan to Davis, 7th July, 1892; Davis' reply, 8th July, 1892; suggestions made to the King of Butaritan by Davis, 8th July, 1892. (these are mentioned but not printed at the end of the first paragraph of p.36 of the Royal Empire Society copy).
- p.146 Davis to United States Consul, Sydney, 8th September, 1892; and the latter's reply, 10th September, 1892, on the Jorgenson case.

p.147 Davis to Scott, 13th August, 1892; and the latter's reply dated 15th August, 1892, regarding the disposal of arms (the contents of pp.146 to 147 probably appeared on a missing last page of the Royal Empire Society copy).

ITEMS IN ROYAL EMPIRE SOCIETY COPY NOT IN FOREIGN OFFICE 6269

- p.3. Scott to Gibson, 14th August, 1892; and telegrams below.
p.23 Gibson to Scott, 20th September, 1892.
pp.36-8 All material on the Rick v Luttrell dispute.
pp.51-5 All reports on visits to islands by the Curacoa in September, 1892.
pp.57-8 Thurston to Scott, 25th October, 1892, and enclosure; Scott to Thurston, 3rd November, 1892.

It may be noted that Z.172/1892 contains a number of reports on visits of ships of the Australian station to Pacific islands which were printed by the Government Printer, Sydney, and are typographically similar to the version of the report held by the Royal Empire Society. What the distribution and authority of these Australian printed collections of correspondence was, I have so far been unable to discover.

(Signed) Donald H. Simpson.

.....

The brief marginal notes and comments would appear to have been made by Swaine prior to his departure for the Gilberts. Many of them consist of the one word "enquire". Conceivably they could have been made by Thurston. *

Slm
3.11.62

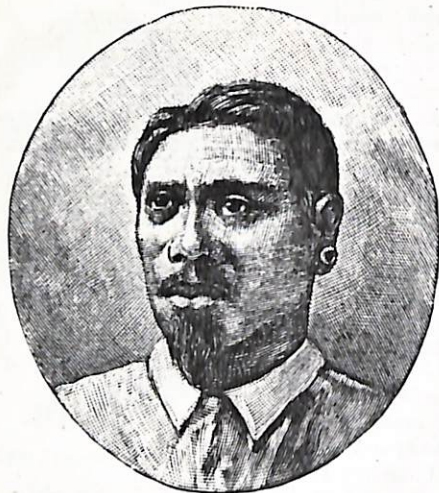
* No almost certainly by Swaine, as the last comment reads:

"H E in June & July 93 visited islands
in Pacific."

These are, however, comments in ink in another hand.

ANNEXATION OF THE GILBERT ISLANDS.

In the West Pacific Ocean, immediately north of the Equator, in longitude about 172 deg. E., which is nearly the same as that of



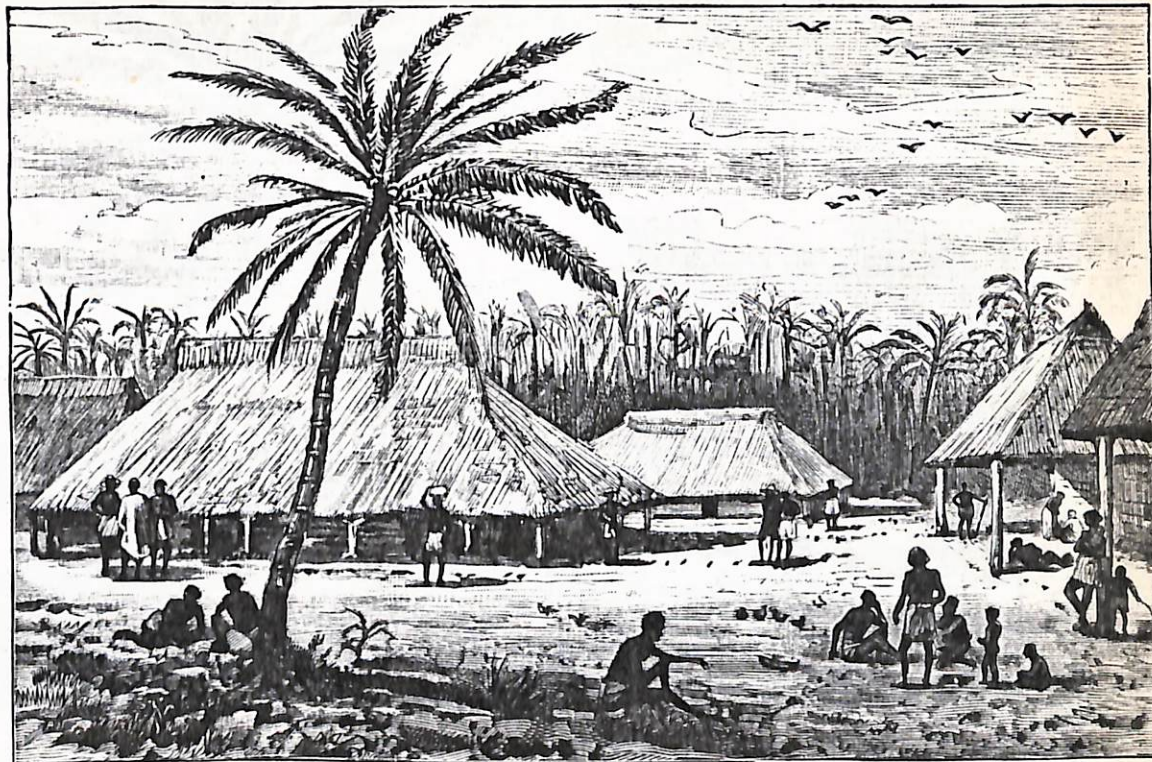
KING TEBAREIMORA.

the central part of New Zealand, but distant two or three thousand miles from the nearest of our Australian colonies, and almost as far from the British settlements in New Guinea, lie the Gilbert or Kingsmill Islands. Their discovery is due to British navigators, to Commodore Byron, in 1785, and to Captains Gilbert and Marshall, in 1788, when also the Marshall Islands, to the north of these, were discovered. The Gilbert Islands form a group of sixteen, mostly uninhabited, each consisting of a coral reef with a bed of sand enclosed within its barrier, rising but a few feet above the sea. The larger isles, growing cocoa-nut and pandanus trees, help to sustain by their fruit a small native population, who are fishermen also: these Polynesians, now become British subjects, possess large well-built canoes, and sail boldly and expertly. They were formerly armed with wooden swords and halberds studded with sharks' teeth, but have now learnt the use of guns; and they have discontinued also the wearing of suits of armour, which they used to make of matted cocoanut fibre. The variety of uses to which the cocoanut-tree is put by these people is remarkable. Their cups, canoes, mats, baskets, fishing-nets, and many other articles are all made from various parts of this useful tree. The dwellings are substantial wooden structures, supported on large stones, and thatched with cocoanut leaves. On each of the islands a few white traders reside, who collect copra from the natives in exchange for tobacco, calico, knives, and other articles valued by them.

In 1824 the Gilbert Islands were fully explored by Captain Duperry, in the French ship *Coquille*; again, in 1841, the United States exploring expedition under Commander Wilkes made a survey of this group, on which survey the charts at present in use are based. Since that time, these islands have been frequently visited by the vessels whaling in the South seas, calling to obtain fresh provisions, also by ships of war, of

various nationalities, at intervals of a few years; H.M.S. *Dart*, in 1884, partially resurveyed the group. But the productions of these islands are very limited, the soil being too sandy to admit of the growth of many plants. The inhabitants altogether number some thousands, and seem to be of one race. Their language is the same throughout the islands, only a slight difference in the pronunciation being remarked.

The natives of the Gilbert Islands are quiet and peaceable; they are governed, in the larger northern islands, by hereditary rulers or kings. The king is sometimes assisted by a council elected from among the chiefs of the different villages. Paul, the King of Apamama, is a boy ten years of age. There are three missions on these islands, and the majority of the natives profess Christianity. The London Missionary Society's Samoan teachers have occupied a few islands south of the Equator; the northern islanders are taught by Hawaiians, supported by American funds; and recently a French Roman Catholic mission has been at work on some of the central islands. Testaments and books of hymns are published in the native language, and many of the younger natives are able to read and write.



VILLAGE ON TAPOUTEOUEA, GILBERT ISLANDS.

H.M.S. *Royalist*, commanded by Captain Davis, hoisted the British flag on Apamama Island on May 27 this year, proclaiming the whole group under British protection, and afterwards visited the other islands, hoisting flags on them also. Apamama has a population of about seven hundred. The natives were very much pleased at being placed under the protection of Queen Victoria, and asked many questions about England, large numbers of them coming off to visit the ship during her stay at each island. The largest islands are Tapouteouea and Tarawa, or Cook Island; the former is nearly thirty miles long, but only half a mile wide. We are indebted to an officer of H.M.S. *Royalist* for the sketches which furnish our Illustrations published this week. The formal annexation of these islands, which could not be effectually controlled by the British High Commissioner residing in distant Fiji, will be certainly beneficial to the natives, affording them protection from kidnapping and various other lawless outrages too easily practised in such remote parts of the world. King Tebareimora lately visited America, and sought the help of the United States.

ANNEXATION OF THE GILBERT ISLANDS.

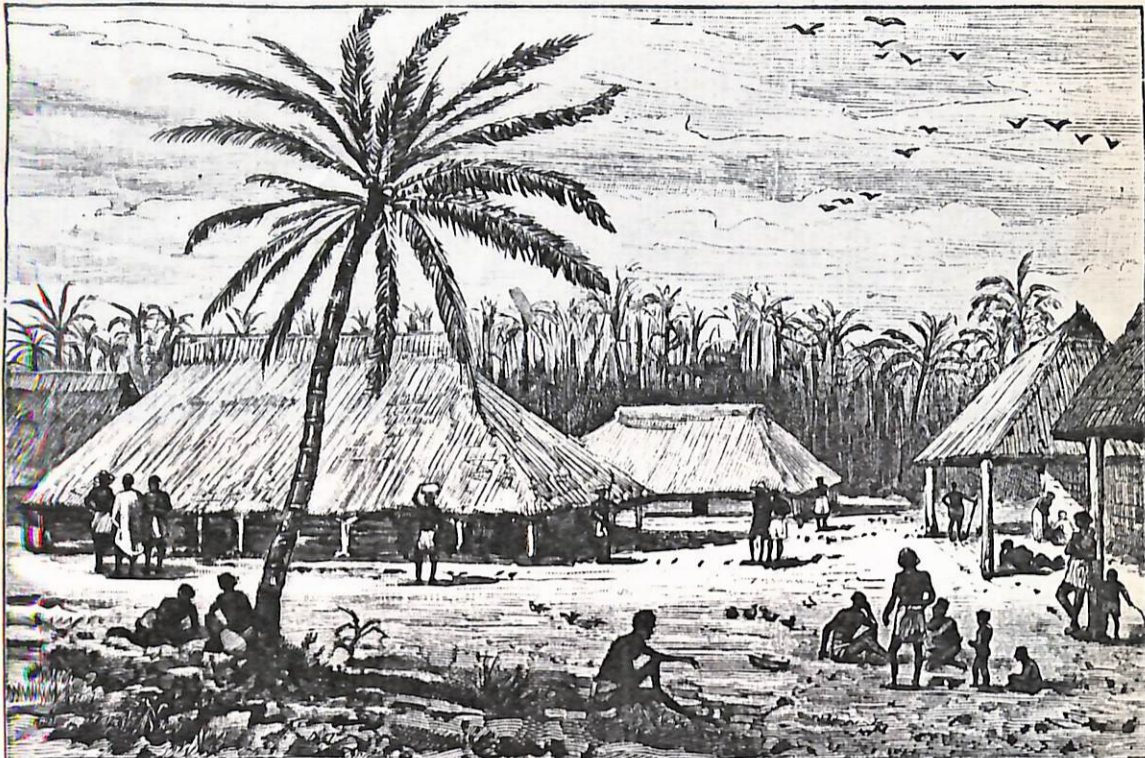
In the West Pacific Ocean, immediately north of the Equator, in longitude about 172 deg. E., which is nearly the same as that of the central part of New Zealand, but distant two or three thousand miles from the nearest of our Australian colonies, and almost as far from the British settlements in New Guinea, lie the Gilbert or Kingsmill Islands. Their discovery is due to British navigators, to Commodore Byron, in 1735, and to Captains Gilbert and Marshall, in 1788, when also the Marshall Islands, to the north of these, were discovered. The Gilbert Islands form a group of sixteen, mostly uninhabited, each consisting of a coral reef with a bed of sand enclosed within its barrier, rising but a few feet above the sea. The larger isles, growing cocoa-nut and pandanus trees, help to sustain by their fruit a small native population, who are fishermen also: these Polynesians, now become British subjects, possess large well-built canoes, and sail boldly and expertly. They were formerly armed with wooden swords and halberds studded with sharks' teeth, but have now learnt the use of guns; and they have discontinued also the wearing of suits of armour, which they used to make of matted cocoanut fibre. The variety of uses to which the cocoanut-tree is put by these people is remarkable. Their cups, canoes, mats, baskets, fishing-nets, and many other articles are all made from various parts of this useful tree. The dwellings are substantial wooden structures, supported on large stones, and thatched with cocoanut leaves. On each of the islands a few white traders reside, who collect copra from the natives in exchange for tobacco, calico, knives, and other articles valued by them.



KING TEBAREIMORA.

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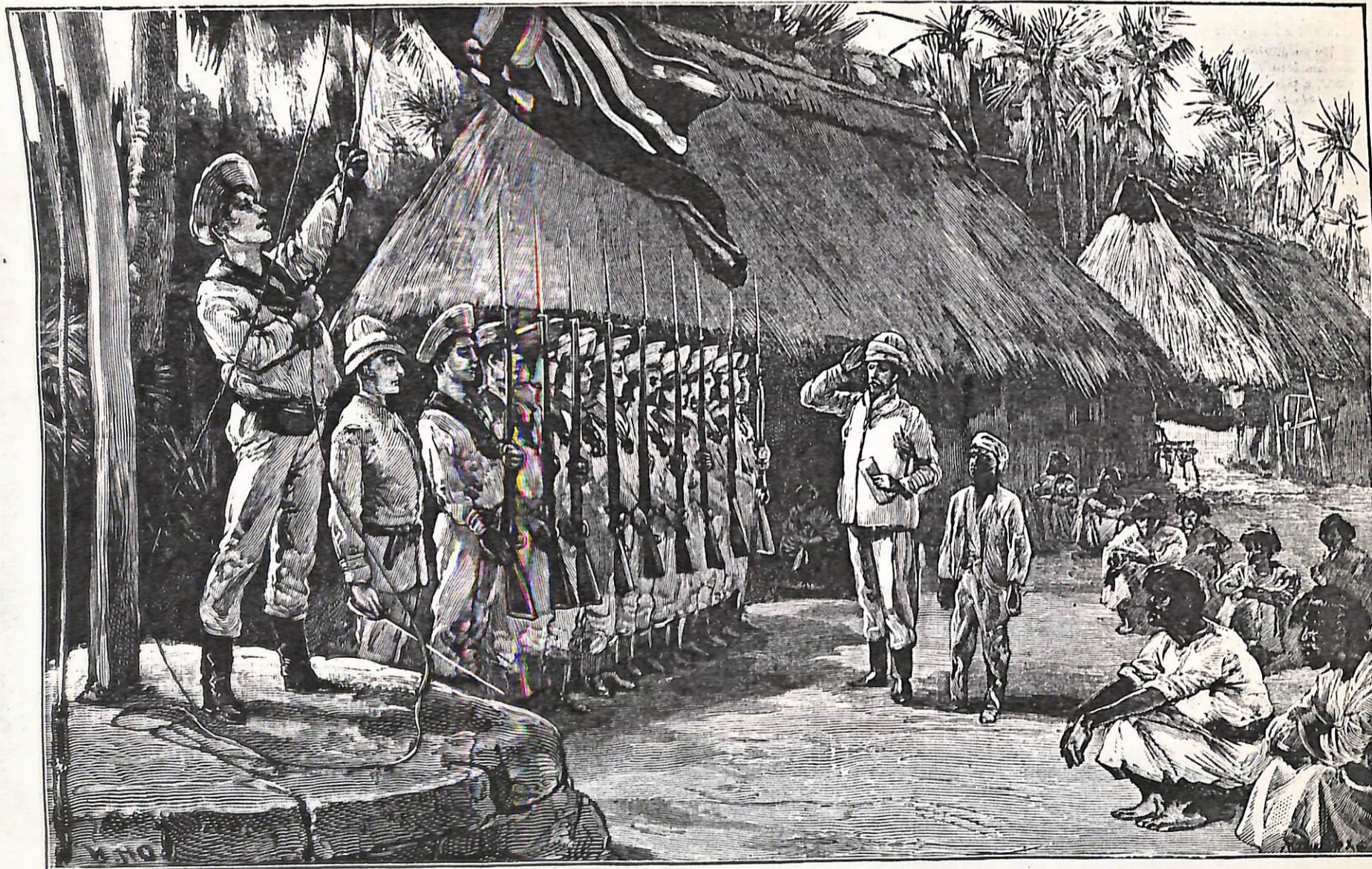
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CAPTAIN DAVIS. KING PAUL.



ANNEXATION OF THE GILBERT ISLANDS: HOISTING THE BRITISH FLAG ON APAMAMA.

FROM A SKETCH BY AN OFFICER OF H.M.S. ROYALIST.

GLEESON OF NONOUTI: TRADING IN SPIRITS

Davis to C in C, Australia, 5.6.92: Fined by Davis £10 at Nonouti for infringement of the 'Intoxicating Liquors Act' No.4 of 1888.

Warned by Davis that repetition would probably cause his removal from Group.

James Joseph Gleeson, trader. James Wickham Cory stated - had been trading on Nonouti for abt a year, Had seen Gleeson give spirits for copra. Also informed that he had purchased about 14 coconuts from natives for a bottle of spirits for each tree.

Also sold dynamite and fuze to natives.

.....

AH SAM, BUTARITARI: MURDER OF

Davis to C in C, 16.6.92: Whilst at Butaritari I heard it ~~rum~~ rumoured that the murderer of Ah Sam, Trader on that island, was known.

2. For this murder Arthur Eury, a British subject, also a trader on the same Island, was tried on board HMS "Dart" on 17th July, 1884, and acquitted after a three days' trial.

3. On enquiry I ascertained that the native accused - Nantarabe - had left the Island some two years ago, and returned to Tarawa, his proper Island. Since his departure, Nantakabane, a native of Butaritari, had spoken of the murder saying he had witnessed it - giving as an excuse for his silence that Nantarabe had threatened to kill him if he told anyone who did it.

4. I arranged with the King to take Nantakabane, and Nanunuri the accused's brother, on board and have the case enquired into at Tarawa.

5. I arrived at Tarawa on 13th June, and told the King to secure Nantarabe - which he did. Having previously taken the evidence of the two witnesses I had on board, I told the King to try the case with his Councillors as the murder occurred before the Protectorate was established. Lieutenant F. St.L. Maxwell was present, and I prosecuted. After the witnesses whom I had brought in the ship had been heard, the King said he was satisfied with Nantarabe's guilt, but the prisoner stated he wished his mother, brother and step-father to be heard.

6. I proceeded to Apiang Island, where they were then living, to get their evidence - taking with me Tenmacke, a Chief and Secretary to the King. Having obtained the statements of these people, I returned to Tarawa and the prisoner having heard their evidence, had nothing to say.

7. He was found guilty, and sentenced to death by the King and his Councillors. The prisoner then confessed to the murder. He was subsequently shot in my presence.

8. I have the honour to enclose papers relating to the trial, and beg to remain,

My Lord,

Your obedient servant,

- H.M.Davis,
Captain.

Cutting from the New Zealand Herald (16 June 1892) on the capsizing of the labour brig Tahiti off the coast of Mexico, with the loss of all on board, estimated at nearly 450.

It will be remembered that some months since a brig named the Tahiti put into one of the Californian ports near San Francisco, having on board a large number of Gilbert Island natives, which had been ostensibly engaged to work in the coffee plantations of Guatemala. The vessel ran out of provisions and water on her way from the Gilbert Islands, and put into the Californian port to obtain a supply, she having some 400 natives on board. The assertion was made at the time that the Tahiti was little better than a slaver, and that the islanders had been "recruited" in anything but an orthodox manner. The American authorities made an attempt to get at the truth of the matter, but for some reason or other failed, and the Tahiti sailed for her destination. After the lapse of a considerable period, it was feared that the vessel had foundered with all hands. As some exceedingly rough weather prevailed just after her departure, and from what it was known of the condition of the vessel, it was asserted that she was not fit to cope with a heavy gale. All doubts as to her fate have been set at rest by a report of the master of the American steamer Roseville. Captain W. Smith, of that vessel, states:—"I discovered the wreck of the Tahiti in 18deg 4min. north lat. and 103deg. 16min. west long., floating with three feet of her keel out of water. The port maintopmast backstay was twisted where the rigging had carried away. In my opinion the brig was capsized in the night time near the Mexican coast, off the Gulf of California, by a sudden squall, and everybody on board lost. The distance from the Socorro or San Benedicto Islands at the time of my discovering the wreck was 428 miles." The U.S. warship Boston was despatched from San Francisco to search for survivors of the ill-fated vessel, but not a soul could be discovered—nearly 450 human beings had been drowned.

KUSTELL AND ENO ON TARAWA

Davis to C in C, 15 7 92.

The recent war on Tarawa was greatly prolonged by arms and ammunition supplied to natives by Kustell (American subject) and Eno (Parotians), traders. Eno traded for Kustell.

Charged with supplying arms and ammunition and Eno with running a native house. Eno was deported.

Peter Grant referred on Kustell.

Most trouble in Gilleto which has come to by notice caused by citizens of U.S.

No license for trading their food on Tarawa but had been one.

There was a fine on island, agreed to by traders that anyone selling liquor to natives should be fined \$100. Ah Yong was fined & paid up; Kustell refused.

Tom Natan - King

Kamudge - son

The Bay of San Francisco, Lewis Publ Co 1892:

"A. Crawford, importer and dealer in ship chandlery, naval stores and all the South Sea Island products, was born in Glenarm, Ireland, Febr 28, 1828. Glenarm is a beautiful valley town on the bay shore, and a favorite resort of the people of the interior and where was situated the castle residence of Lord Antrim, his parks occupying the larger portion of the fine valley.....At the age of sixteen he went to Liverpool, England, and learned the trade of sail-making, and in 1849, on board a sailing vessel, he started for Boston, Mass., and after a passage of 49 days arrived in that port. The subsequent months were passed at his trade on land and sea, visiting Savannah, New Orleans, St. Louis and Chicago. From the latter point he made several trips upon Lake Michigan, and afterward went to New York and engaged as sail maker on board the GUY MANNERING, and made several trips to Liverpool. In the spring of 1852, Mr. Crawford shipped on the STAG HOUND around Cape Horn to San Francisco, arriving July 4, of the same year. He then worked as journeyman about one year, and afterward started in business, keeping a sail loft on Front street, the main building being erected over the water on piles, and it was possible to fish from the windows. Being well trained in his profession, he started out with a very fine business, which gradually led into ship-chandlery, and in 1862 he included supplies for that department. He continued sail-making until 1869, when he gave up that branch of the business. About 1859 he became interested in sailing vessels, and began developing trade with the islands of the South Pacific, which is now a leading feature of his business. Mr. Crawford has established branch houses at Papeete, on the island of Tahiti, at Taihoé, Marquesas Islands, at Jaluit, Marshall Islands, at Butarritari, Gilbert Island, and has a prominent connection with Apie of the Samoan Island. His supplies are imported from France, Germany, Austria and England, with large invoices from manufacturers of the Eastern and Atlantic coast states. From the islands he brings copra, pearl shells, sea-island cotton and fungus (which is again exported to China), and all sea-island products.

"Mr. Crawford has been extensively interested in sailing vessels, several of which have become famous, and among the number is the bark ANNIE JOHNSON, an iron ship, which was formerly the LIZZIE IREDALE, of Liverpool. She took fire while loaded with a cargo of coal, was abandoned, and after drifting for eight months she passed through the Pamuts Islands and was picked up by a French man-of-war off the Island of Tahiti and towed into port, her cargo still burning. She was subsequently bought by Mr. Crawford and repaired, skilled mechanics being sent from San Francisco to perform the work. The Senate and Congress of the United States unanimously agreed to give the vessel the American flag, which she has carried about twelve years, being for some time the only iron sailing vessel that was sailing under American register.also worthy of mention is the schooner GREYHOUND, that ran between San Francisco and Tahiti for a period of fourteen years making an average of four trips per year, which is the fastest

sailing record of all crafts afloat.....

"He was married in San Francisco, in 1854, to Miss Frances W. Love, a native of the north of Ireland.....He has been one of the most active fighters to reduce the extravagant charges for pilotage, and partly through his efforts the towage charges and harbor dues have been greatly modified....."

Note 1: 1867 Bus. Directory, Langley: "A. Crawford & Co, ship chandlers, 29 Market street." Plus ad: "A. Crawford & Co., ship chandlers, sailmakers and dealers in ship & steamboat stores, flags and buntings of all colors constantly on hand, 27 Market street, 3 doors west of Stewart, San Francisco, Cal." (cut: three master under sail)

Note 2: 1878 Bus. Dir. McKenney: "A. Crawford & Co, ship chandlers, 25-27- Market." (same in 1880-81, 1886-7 McKenneys directories, 1890 Polk directory).

Note 3: 1893 SF directory: "A Crawford & Co, shipping and commission merchants, 25-27 Market, James H. Watson, secy."

Note 4: 1897 SF directory: "The A. Crawford Co., James R. Watson, secy., shipping and commission, 14 Drumm."

Note 5: 1903 on nothing shown under Crawford.

TRADERS IN GILBERTS

Davis to C in C, 22.7.92. JORGENSEN (Dane) - landed at Toluit some time previously in small boat from Nouvelles (?) Island where his vessel had been wrecked. Said to have gone out shooting with his Captain on Nouvelles & ret'd without him - suspected of shooting him, so was cleaned off leaving him.

Mr Gillies flew US flag but US Com agent at Betaitare said he had no right. Davis found (without committing him) that he had rescued a year old daughter of late CHARLES JONES (former Be trader on Nouvelles). He was committed by Ferguson before Prot, but D advised him to leave & he did so on 'Montenat' for Guatemala (Capt Ferguson, Calum agent), with G. Mendock (British Trade of Nouvelles) under agreement to go to Great in charge of Nouvelles labour.

Charles Jones died 1890.

Jorgensen and Captain HENTY² partners. Jack BUCKLAND then trader on Nouvelles (ie after Jones died) and had been a partner of Jones (he settled up Jones' affairs). Jones was in debt to Wrightman Bros and Buckland settled this up. Captain Hargrave of schooner 'Tarawa' was sailing round Gillies at time. Jorgensen was in command of schooner 'Thresher'.

¹ derived of Henty

¹ Jones Adolf Jorgensen
² Joseph William Henty

TABITEUA: TROUBLE ON.

Davis to C. i. C., 23 7 92: 'Old Men' explained that R. Co (but TAUBO and TAKAMI) had said in manala at Utiroa that they did not want to be under same flog as Priests (i.e. their Jack) & would have their own flog. Davis considered this true, as so many heard.

They also considered 'old men' had no right to fine R. Co. (for being drunk).

Heard all that 'old men' made laws and governed island & levied fines. No one else could and all religions were subject to laws.

Missionaries might make small rules for guidance of converts, but could not make laws or levy fines. R. Co said they understood this & would abide by laws of old men.

TABITEUEA: KAPUA AND TROUBLES ON

Davis to the C in C, 23.7.92: On arrival at Taputewea Island on 21st instant, I found some dissensions existing between the Protestant and Roman Catholic Converts. The latter were holding a large meeting at Temanuk, at the North end of the Island to discuss the matter.

2. Having determined to collect all the arms in the island, I started from the maniaba at Utiroa, (where the flag was hoisted) taking with me three "Old Men" and working north, arrived at Temanuk about dusk.

3. I spoke to those assembled, concerning the feud which was going on between the two parties. They declared that Kapua, Ticutica, and Joseph, were the instigators of all the ill feeling against them. I told them to go to Utiroa the next morning, and I would enquire into the matter.

4. On the morning of 22nd instant, I landed at Utiroa, and heard both sides. The Roman Catholics asserted that Kapua, Ticutica and Joseph were inciting the other natives against them. They said that they - the Roman Catholics - had been fined by the "Old Men", who had no right to do so, and that they were waiting for their own Missionary - Pere Bontemps - to come to the Island to make laws for them. The "Old Men" complained that the Roman Catholics (naming particularly two men, Taubo and Takami) had said in the Maniaba at Utiroa, that they did not want to be under the same Flag as the Protestants, (alluding to the Union Jack, flying outside the Maniaba) and they would have a Flag of their own. The "Old Men" also said they had fined a native - a Roman Catholic - for getting drunk on sour toddy, and the Roman Catholics questioned their right to do so. The Roman Catholics denied that any of their people had spoken with reference to their unwillingness to be under the same flag as the Protestants - but the number of witnesses present who had heard Taubo and Takami make that statement, decided me that it was correct. They admitted that a man had got drunk on sour toddy and said they thought the "Old Men" had no right to fine him as he was a Roman Catholic.

5. Kapua, a native of Honolulu, a trader and formerly a Missionary on Taputewea was present - also Ticutica, a native trader. Joseph was at the South end of the Island some twenty-five miles away. Kapua and Ticutica of course denied being concerned in any way with the feud but their previous histories were sufficient to justify me in disbelieving their statements.

6. Seeing the necessity of dealing at once in a most summary manner with this trouble, I ordered Kapua to leave the Group within a month from that date. I warned Ticutica, and Joseph (through the "Old Men" and the Missionary) that the slightest repetition of similar conduct on their part, would cause them to be severely punished. - I informed all present that the "Old Men" made the laws and governed the Island. They also

TABITEUEA: KAPUA AND TROUBLES ON (contd.)

levied the fines. The missionaries might make small rules for the guidance of their own converts, but could not make laws or levy fines. The "Old Men" I looked to to rule the Island - not the Missionaries. There was in future to be but one part in Taputewea - all amenable to the same laws.

The Roman Catholics said they understood this, and in future they would abide by the laws of the "Old Men".
 7. In dealing thus summarily with Kapua, I may mention that he (once a Missionary on the Island) has much influence with the natives. This influence he has abused shamefully. It is asserted that this man has instigated all the wars that have occurred on the Island for some years past, and his treatment of the wounded, if accounts be true, was simply diabolical. Some years ago, amongst labour returning from Tahiti, were several who had, whilst at Tahiti, become converts to the Roman Catholic faith. After their return to Taputewea they wrote to Tahiti, begging a Priest might be sent them. Pere Bontemps coming to the Group, administered to their wants. This did not suit Kapua's views, and from the very first he has steadily opposed them in every way, and incited the Protestants and others to share his views.

Ticutica is a bad character and previous to this charge being brought against him, I had twice to warn him of his behaviour.

8. Unless I am very much mistaken, Pere Bontemps is the last man who would interfere with the Government of any Island, or wish to cause any trouble by the establishment of a Roman Catholic Mission in the Group.

I enclose copy of a letter I wrote Pere Bontemps, dated 22nd July.

9. I trust the steps I have taken will have the desired effect, and that peace and quietness may be again established on the Island.

I have &c.

E H.M.Davis
 Captain.

Davis to G in C, 25.7.92: On my arrival in the Gilbert Group in May last, I heard various reports concerning the death of James Byrne (or Byron), a British Subject, trader on the Island of Maraki.

At Taputewea
22nd July, 1892

2. I thought it advisable to inform you of the information possible, and now enclose the papers in connection with this. KAPUA, a native of Honolulu, having been represented to me as instigating religious dissensions between Protestants and Roman Catholics on this Island - I consider it necessary taking into consideration that he was formerly a missionary on the Island - that he should be removed from the Gilbert Group, to insure the welfare of the natives. It is therefore my direction that Kapua leaves the Group within one month from date hereof. This has been notified to the Old Men of the Island.

(Signed) Ed. H.M. Davis

Captain HMS "Royalist"

To:
Kapua,
Trader.

Butaritari who, at the time of my visit to Maraki after Byrne's death, was United States Commercial Agent, in his reply, he gives no answer to the 3rd question of my letter - a most important one. He, as United States Consul, appeared anxious to settle Byrne's (a British subject's) money matters, yet he appears to have taken no steps to ascertain the cause of death, although it was openly asserted Byrne had been poisoned by Grant and Blanchard, the latter undoubtedly an American. The date of Grant's naturalization, I am not certain of.

5. I also wish to bring to your notice, that, calling at Grant's house at Terawa on 11th July, Grant was out. I then took his wife's evidence, in his absence. I met Grant immediately afterwards, and took his evidence in the village, before he had an opportunity of conversing with his wife. He remembered nothing, and it was only after a deal of pressure, that he gave the very unsatisfactory evidence he did.

6. I went to Apamama Island, on purpose to find Byrne's native wife, and pulling in towards the shore, hailed a canoe, which was unloading about half a mile off the beach - and asked if Neikoris lived anywhere near. The woman herself was unloading the canoe and then sitting on the gunwale of my galley, she gave me her evidence, plain and straightforward. I did all I could to shake it but it was easy to see she spoke the truth. "Jack", the pilot at Entrance Island, can always find this woman.

7. Grant being an American subject, and the crime he is accused of having occurred some years before the Protectorate was established, I did not think I should be justified in arresting him but I sincerely hope that he may be brought to trial for in my own mind I think there is but little doubt of his guilt.

8. I enclose a copy of a note written by Mr. Grant, Assistant Paymaster, to Mr. Bakstrom, trader on Fani Island, as I was unable through want of coals to visit that Island a second time, in order to obtain his evidence.

9. A fine with interest, of \$75, due to the late James Byrne, from the King of Maraki, I have obtained, and propose handing the same to the High Commissioner for Byrne's estate.

2.
BYRNE: POISONING BY PETER GRANT (contd)

Davis to C in C, 25.7.92: On my arrival in the Gilbert Group in May last, I heard various reports concerning the death of James Byrne (or Byron), a British Subject, trader on the Island of Maraki.

2. I thought it advisable to gain all the information possible, and now enclose the papers in connection with this matter.

3. The evidence certainly points to Peter Grant, a Swede, now a naturalized American Subject, and trader on Tarawa Island, as having administered poison to Byrne and to William Blanchard, an American Subject as having been an accessory before and possibly to, the fact. Blanchard left the Group in the Brig "Tahiti" for Mexico, which vessel has been discovered bottom up, so probably he is dead.

4. I would remind you that in writing to Mr. Rick of Butaritari who, at the time of visiting Maraki after Byrne's death, was United States Commercial Agent, in his reply, he gives no answer to the 3rd paragraph of my letter - a most important one. He, as United States Commercial Agent, appeared anxious to settle Byrne's (a British Subject's) money matters, yet he appears to have taken no steps to ascertain the cause of death, although it was openly asserted Byrne had been poisoned by Grant and Blanchard, the latter undoubtedly an American. The date of Grant's naturalization, I am not certain of.

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BYRNE: POISONING BY PETER GRANT (contd)

10. A letter (marked "Confidential") I enclose. It was handed to me by the Englishman to whom it is addressed, and who still doubts the integrity of the person referred to in it. In making my enquiries, I was particular as to the denomination of the coins belonging to the deceased's estate, and by the evidence I obtained, it would appear there may be some grounds for suspicion.

6. From Mr. Corrie, I learnt that on one occasion some years before Byrne's death - he, with Stanbergen, Peter Grant and Byrne, was taking passage in a schooner to Sydney. It was known on board that Byrne had in his possession about £500 in cash. On the passage, Byrne missed this money. Grant was suspected, but nothing was said. One day when Grant was on shore, the Mate brought a bag of money aft, which he said he had found in the fore peak. The money was counted and found correct with the exception of £22. It was then decided to search Grant's chest. Scattered on the bottom of it was found £22 in gold - the exact sum missing from the bag. On Grant's return on board he was accused of the theft - he denied it - but when told of the discovery of the bag in the fore peak, and the £22 in his chest - he acknowledged having taken it as a joke. For some reason the Mate of the vessel did not report this in Sydney.

I have & c.

E.H.M.Davis.
Captain.

In this case, the Staff Surgeon of this ship was of opinion that, such a lapse of time having occurred since Byrne's death, (4 years) it would be useless to disinter his body in hopes of finding traces of poison in the remains.

ABAIANG: CONVICTION OF SU-KONG FOR ASSAULT

Capt. Davis to C in C, 10.8.92: Su-Kong, trader (Chinese, Br subj, of Singapore) shot at a native Rabonai with a pistol, apparently because he suspected him of giving coconuts to one of his two wives. Su-Kong admitted firing a shot but alleged that it was in self defence as some marauder came to his place after dark and grappled with him. "It is against the King's law to trade after dark, and I do not do so. I thought this man had come to the house to steal - fought together and when he found a knife in the man's hand he reached for his revolver and shot at his leg.

The next morning he went to the King to report the occurrence. The King gave me no answer. He tabooed me over two months, but he charged for my license all the same.

Charles Henry Tierney, trader, said that King proposed to make Su-Kong fast in the maniaba till a warship arrived - advised him not to. Native shot thought he was dying and made statement in presence of King and Reverend Moses Kaure.

Su-Kong said " I have nothing to say. If I had not shot him he would have killed me. I cannot go against the whole island. The King makes a law that no kanaka shall go to a white man's house after dark. I don't want any to come."

Prisoner found guilty sentenced to 1 year and £50 - HC later confirmed sentence in Fiji. Ten Tebaka an unsatisfactory witness was handed over to King for punishment who had him publicly caned in the maniaba.

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Missionary Herald, July 1892. ✓

.....

Mr Walkup reports of Tarawa:

When we drifted passed [past] Abaiang, we heard of a war on Tarawa, and on landing we found that both parties said they were ready for peace, and they were waiting my arrival to deliver up their guns.

We threw 94 ✓ rifles delivered us into the deep and brought the parties together. About one third of the island had been devastated and the church and the school suffered much. On our second visit church and school had revived somewhat, but some of the rebels were still banded together claiming that their rights had not been recognized.

EUROPEAN CRIMES IN GILBERTS.

HC to SS, No. 32 of 3.10.92: I have the honour to enclose copies of reports by Captain Davis of HMS "Royalist" respecting the allged poisoning at Butaritari, in the Gilbert Group, of a British subject named Byrne, by an American citizen, named Peter Grant; and of a charge of assault on a native of Tarawa by an American citizen named Kustel.

2. In the former case Rear Admiral Lord Chas. Scott has requested me to advise as to what further steps should be taken; and in the latter Capt. Davis left the matter, at Kustel's request for reference to the Government of the United States.

3. With regard to Peter Grant the suspicion is based on very strong grounds, although the death at sea of a man who apparently would have been an important witness has made the case less easy of proof than it would otherwise have been. The report shows that there is good ground for believing that Grant had on a previous occasion attempted to rob Byrne of a sum of £500.

4. The offences alleged having, however, been committed before the declaration of British Protection in the Gilbert Group it does not seem ~~xxxx~~ possible to try Grant in any British Court, even if a jurisdiction over foreigners living in protected islands were to be conferred on the High Commissioner's Court.

5. The Government of the United States might perhaps be moved to arrest Grant, and put him on trial for the murder of Byrne, or as an alternative the Resident appointed might direct Grant to leave as a person dangerous to its peace and good order.

6. The charges against Kustel are not so grave, though they are sufficiently serious, seeing that his Rarotongan Agent, Gno, in pleading guilty of a charge of arson, stated that he did the act by Kustel's orders. If a jurisdiction over foreigners in the group is conferred on the High Commissioner's Court it will probably be able to prevent the recurrence of such acts as those charged against Kustel, and I do not think it expedient to have him removed to the United States for trial.

7. But Kustel might be warned that a repetition of his former conduct would entail his removal from the group.

I have &c.

John B. Thurston.

Missionary Herald, October 1892, p.392. Editorial paragraph. ✓

.....

Reports have been received of the occupation by the British of several islands in the Pacific, the Johnston Islands a rocky group some 600 miles south-west of Honolulu, are said to have formally been taken possession of by a British Man of War on July 17th.

If newspaper reports are to be relied upon, a far more important annexation took ^e place on June the 12th, when the British flag was raised on the Gilbert Islands at Butaritari.

In the July number of the Missionary Herald, we gave an account of the coming of Nantemate, King of Butaritari to San Francisco, in the hope of procuring from the United States a protectorate for his island. In this he was disappointed, and he returned to his island home uncertain as to what might happen, having special fears lest Germany should take possession of the Group.

We have had no direct communication, as yet, from the islands, but a correspondent of the San Francisco papers at Butaritari, said to be an American, and if so doubtless a trader there, complains bitterly of the high handed transaction on the part of the officers of a British Man of War in proclaiming the sovereignty of the Queen. The first act of the British Commander, according to this correspondent, was to issue an order that no foreigner should sell to the natives fire-arms, rum or tobacco. Hence these tears over British aggression.

We have no doubt that this whole affair was in accordance with the wishes of the Butaritari King, who much preferred British to German or Spanish authorities. In this we heartily agree with him, though it is difficult to see just what advantages England may derive from the possession of the Johnston and Gilbert Groups. Yet such is the greed among the nations for territory, though it be distant and comparatively valueless. The assumption by some power of authority over these Groups seemed inevitable, and we are glad if British rule, which is religiously tolerant and which favours good morals, is established over the Gilbert Islands, where we have such a hopeful missionary work.

We shall await with great interest definite reports from our missionaries in regard to this transaction.

The "Blackbirder" Montserrat.

A somewhat novel piece of newspaper enterprise appears in the San Francisco *Examiner* of October 15th. This paper sent a reporter, W. H. Bromage, who shipped as able seaman on board the steamer Montserrat, subsequently becoming quartermaster. He reports the voyage as above, with some fullness, and as we are well satisfied, with accuracy and sobriety, although some sensational exaggerations appear in the headings prefixed to the story, and in editorial comments.

The Montserrat took as passenger at San Francisco, on April 23d, the native chief or King of Butaritari. She went north to Nanaimo to coal, then calling one day at Honolulu, landed the king at Butaritari, May 26th, and commenced recruiting among the other islands of the group for hands to work upon certain coffee plantations in Guatemala. In this work she visited twelve islands, and spent 75 days. On August 9th, she sailed from Tamana for Guatemala, with 388 laborers, arriving at San Jose de Guatemala on the 11th of September, or in thirty-three days from port to port. No sickness occurred upon the passage. One man came aboard with an injured arm, and landed in poor condition, dying from the kick of a mule on the long journey inland. All the rest reached the plantations in good condition.

This is the bright side of the story. The ship was a good one, a fast steamer, well provisioned. The passengers were made quite as comfortable, and as well treated as any emigrants in the steerages of Atlantic steamers. They were well bunked, well fed, had all the water they could drink, and the full freedom of the deck. Their good health proves that they were well used. Mr. Bromage complains that they were not supplied with fresh water for washing their clothes, and in consequence got abominably filthy. Why did not the mate turn the ship's hose on to them? They had salt water to wash in. We have made two voyages of six and five months around Cape Horn, with fresh water only for drink, except when it rained, and never thought it a grievance.

It is probable that no company of contract laborers ever made so pleasant and prosperous a voyage across five thousand miles of ocean. We gather this from the reporter's own story, and it is confirmed to us by the statements of the Rev. Mr. Kapu, an old Hawaiian Missionary, who was a passenger, and whom we have carefully questioned. He held daily prayers with the people, with regular service on the Sabbath. They had their Bibles and Hymn-books. He married twelve couples on the voyage.

But there is a darker side to the story. Much gross deception was used in the work of recruiting, and apparently, vio-

lence was not wholly absent. Certain experienced white men were employed as agents and interpreters. In all recruiting work for soldiers, sailors and the like, fraud and some force are always employed, and were not absent in this job of blackbirding. We judge that there was far less of these abuses than has been usually practiced. This was due to the fact that the people had been Christianized, could read and write, and had gained considerable intelligence about foreign parts.

The worst practice appears to have been the enticing of children to come aboard and sign, in order to induce their parents to follow. Some distressing scenes occurred where mothers were held back by their husbands from following their children. Mr. Kapu tells us that in many cases the people got into the boats secretly after dark, so that their relations should not detain them. Deserting laborers swimming ashore were fired at and turned back. Happily none were hurt.

It must be kept in view that the experience of these islanders in contract labor in the Hawaiian Is. has been very favorable, and makes them ready to enlist. Guatemala was represented to them as being still more desirable, especially as the labor of picking coffee is so much lighter than that in the Hawaiian cane-fields. But according to Mr. Kapu, a very gross deception as to the wages promised must have been practiced upon them. The form of contract given in the *Examiner* specifies only *Three* dollars a month and found. But they were distinctly promised from five to seven dollars a month. There was a discrepancy which made trouble on the voyage. The laborers from the southern half compared notes with those from the northern half, and found that the latter had been promised six dollars for women and seven for men, while the latter had been promised five dollars for women and six for men. Learning this, they began to blame the interpreter, and to declare that as soon as they reached Honolulu, where the ship was to call, they would all go to Rev. Hiram Bing ham to look over their contracts, and if anything was wrong, they would leave the ship and seek passage home.

Learning this, the Captain headed the ship off for Fanning's Island hoping to put Mr. Kapu on some vessel there for Honolulu, where he had agreed to take him. Finding none he kept on to Guatemala.

It was learned there that out of 400 of their people brought there two years before by the Alma, less than 180 survived. The rest had died of fevers, small pox, and other epidemics. It is wholly improbable that the laborers would receive any such protection in Guatemala as they do in Hawaii, from the injustice of employers. Here the Government watches over them through humane and efficient inspectors. Here

also the climate is perfectly salubrious, and epidemics rare. After landing and on the journey inland much complaint of the cold was made by the islanders, who had no warm clothing. Kapu says he suffered from the cold while lying in the harbor. Snow clad peaks lay in sight, and the plantations were far inland. The *Examiner* describes the journey of sixty miles to one of them as involving much hardship. The people went by railway to the other.

The *Examiner* seems indiscriminating in comparing the Montserrat's work with that of African slavers. But it is a terribly wrong thing to entice these poor people to a country where they are at the mercy of Spanish masters, and where the climate will be fatal to most of them. We hope that the British authorities now in possession of the Gilbert Islands will forbid any more of the natives to ship to Mexican or Central American ports.

Death of Mrs. Sinclair.

From the P. C. Advertiser.

Under the usual heading will be found notice of the death of Mrs. E. Sinclair, of Makaweli, Kauai. Mrs. S. arrived here with her family from New Zealand, twenty-nine years ago, and having made the purchase of the island of Niihau, for a sheep ranch, from Kamehameha IV., for the sum of \$10,000, settled at Makaweli, which large tract she subsequently purchased, and where she has lived ever since she arrived here, never having left Kauai except for a short visit to Niihau. She leaves two children Mrs. Knudsen, now in this city, and a son, Francis Sinclair, now living in Alameda, Cal. Besides the above several grand and great grand-children survive her, residing here and in California. Mrs. S. was a most remarkable woman, of Scotch birth, and possessed of an active business mind, which enabled her to be the ruling spirit and manager of her large property. She always enjoyed remarkably good health in her mountain home at Makaweli. A few weeks since she had an attack of grip from which she recovered, but left her so weak and helpless that she felt it was of no use to make any effort to recover and prolong life in such a helpless condition. Then calling her grand-children and friends to her bedside, she bade an affectionate farewell to each, closed her eyes and expired the age of 93 years, with apparently pain, but with a bright hope of eternal glory in the spirit land.

[Mrs. Sinclair has been a constant subscriber to THE FRIEND.]

The Island ports of entry outside Honolulu which had been closed three weeks, as a precaution against cholera, have been reopened in recommendation of the Board of Health.

U.S. COMMERCIAL AGENT IN THE GILBERT ISLANDS

SS to HC, No.41 of 14.12.92: forwarding letter recd thru FO from US Charge d'Affaires re Rick at Butaritari.

HM Govt consider it would have been better for Davis to have recognized Rick provisionally in capacity of Commercial Agent for the US, pending the result of ref to HM Govt, & orders have been sent to C in C, Australian Station, that Rick is to be recognized in that capacity.

Fiji Govt

Request notification in/Gazette that HM Govt have recognized Mr Adolph Rick as US Commercial Agent in the Gilbert Is.

Enc. Charge d'Affaires to FO, ~~14/12/92~~ 21.11.92: Invites attention to Davis conduct "in contrast with the conduct of other Agents of foreign Governments when declaring under the protection of such Governments, islands and territories in which the United States maintained a Representative accredited to the local authority".

"Citizens of the United States have, during the last 50 years established themselves in several of the islands of the Gilbert group. Acquiring property and vested interests therein, they have won the confidence and esteem of the natives by their exemplary dealings and by their self-sacrificing labours as missionaries, and, supported by the benevolent contributions of the Christian churches of the United States, they have raised that remote island community to a state of civilized order alike notable and commendable.

These interests thus firmly established, called for due recognition and protection on the part of the United States Government, and on the 25th May 1888, Mr Adolph Rick was duly commissioned as Commercial Agent of the United States for the Gilbert Islands, with residence at Butaritari.

Captain Davis appears to have supposed, contrary to the usage which my Government has observed on other occasions and in other quarters, that the acceptance of Her Majesty of a protectorate over the local rulers ~~of~~ of those islands, annulled the relations of other Governments to the latter and he appears to have treated the United States Commercial Agency as non-existent from the 27th of May 1892, when his proclamation of assumption of British protection over the Gilbert Islands was issued at Apamama 15 days before he arrived at Butaritari on the 11th of June. Mr Rick was not lacking in courtesy to Captain Davis, and on the next day June 12th, sought an introduction to him through a reputable resident at Butaritari, Mr J.F. Luttrell, but Captain Davis took no notice of the introduction, although Mr Rick's name and office were distinctly announced, and he turned abruptly away. wing to this misunderstanding, Mr Rick and Captain Davis did not meet until July 6th, when the Captain informed him orally, that he could not recognize him as a Consular Representative until he should be accredited to Her Majesty the Queen - a statement repeated the next day in writing.

Availing himself of the usual courtesy of forwarding home-bound mails by returning war-vessels, Mr Rick, on Friday July 8th

tendered to Captain Davis ... official despatches to Dept of State" but Davis demanded heading 'U.S. Consulate Butaritari' should be erased as not courteous on the Consul Agent's part. However he accepted it the next day, without erasure.

Not readily supposable that Davis' powers included the abrupt rupture and outlawry of the relations maintained by US Govt with the Gilbert Islanders through its deputed Agent. Had the is been annexed by GB as conquered territory, such sudden breaking off of the representative functions of the Agent of a friendly state might perhaps have found excuse as an act of military necessity, but in this case it bears an unfriendly aspect which sure HM Govt will hasten to disavow.

In previous cases no interruption of representation until new appt required new act of recognition. If this prot was deemed different involving the substitutionary credence of the US Com Agent of forthwith to HM HBM, this Govt would have cheefully considered the point on intimation thru regular channels.

The important point is that as staed "The germs of civilization were planted in the Gilbert Group by the zealous endeavours of American citizens ~~of~~ more than $\frac{1}{2}$ a century ago.

The result of this work carried on by American citizens and money, has been in fact to change the naked barbarism of the island natives into enlightened communities, and to lay the foundation of the trade and commerce which have ~~laid the~~ given these islands importance in the eyes of Europe today. Wrought by the agents of a colonizing Power, this development would have naturally led to a paramount claim to protection, control or annexation, as policy might dictate. My Government has however, slept upon its rights to reap the benefits of the development produced by the efforts of its citizens; but it cannot forego its inalienable privilege to protect the latter in the vested rights they have built up ...".

"My Government believes that it is entitled to expect that the rights and interests of the United States citizens established in the Gilbert Islands will be as fully respected and confirmed under Her Majesty's Protectorate as they could have ~~been~~ been, had the United States accepted the office of protection not long since solicited by the rulers of those islands.

I am furthermore to point out to Your Lordship the expediency and indeed the necessity in view of Captain Davis' strange conduct of continuing the Consular representation of the United States in that quarter, under such superior sanction as Her Majesty's Government may deem fitting, by reason of this function of protection which it has assumed."

HAWAIIAN BOARD.

HONOLULU, H. I.

This page is devoted to the interests of the Hawaiian Board of Missions, and the Editor, appointed by the Board is responsible for its contents.

Rev. O. P. Emerson. - Editor.

The following is a list (probably in complete), which has been sent on of the names of those in the islands, who have been appointed members of the Advisory Council of the World's Congress Auxiliary of the World's Columbian Exposition on Religious Congresses. In Honolulu, Oahu, Revs. E. G. Beckwith, D.D., C. M. Hyde, D.D., W. B. Oleson and O. P. Emerson; also Prof. W. D. Alexander and Pres. F. A. Hosmer. In Paia, Maui, Rev. T. L. Gulick; and in Hilo, Hawaii, Rev. E. P. Baker.

The Chinese mission is highly favored by the arrival of Mrs. J. Emery from the States. She comes to do work among the women, and has already been introduced to her field. We believe that there is not a more hopeful line of work than this which has been placed in her hands, for it concerns the family life of a very important class of our population, of a people who are building houses and rearing children, who rank among the brightest of those attending our schools.

Word has come from the rooms of the A. B. C. F. M., that the request of the Hawaiian Board for the retention of the Rev. O. H. Gulick among us as a missionary worker, cannot be granted. He cannot be spared from Japan. It is permitted though that Mr. Gulick's leave of absence be extended six months, and that he use the added time for work among us. The Hawaiian Board has accepted this limited offer of Mr. Gulick's service, and after his visit to the States, whither he goes in February, he will probably return and be with us the allotted time.

Another Case.

A kahuna named Pohano came to the house of a woman named _____ living near the Roman Catholic burying ground on King street, and said to her, "I met your spirit together with two other spirits (of dead persons) at the corner of Maunakea and King streets, and they have led me to your house." "But," said she, "you are a stranger to me." He replied, "I saw your spirit beckoning me to come in, and so I have come." At this, the woman was frightened, because it is a popular belief among the natives, that the spirit does sometimes leave the body and wander off, and that when this occurs it is a premonition of death, and that death will surely come unless relief is found by the hand of some kahuna, and the

spirit can be made to cease its wanderings. So the woman said, "what must I do to escape this danger."

The man replied, "It can be easily arranged. Get some (piialii) taro, some shrimps and mullet and bananas (maia lele)." These were to be given by the kahuna to the woman while he was performing his incantations over them, to the end that her spirit should not go roaming again away from her body. The shrimp being a restless, jumping creature, the eating of it would signify the doing away of the soul's restless tendency. The eating of the wandering mullet would be likewise significant, as would also the eating of the banana named maialele, flying banana.

Upon this the woman sent for her husband. He came and found the kahuna entertained with a luncheon at his house.

The kahuna said, "I shall make no charges, but you may give me what you please; ten dollars will do."

The householder replied, "I have but two dollars in hand; take that and later I will give you the balance."

Said the householder, "Can you really see spirits?" "Yes," was the reply. "Then teach me to discern them." "It would not do," said the kahuna, "you are a passionate man, you would use your power destructively." "Only on the whites," was the reply.

This day being a Saturday it was arranged that the kahuna should come and finish his work on the following week. Meanwhile the householder learned from another kahuna that the first one was a fraud, and on the householder's going to him and charging him with lying, he confessed to it and returned the money he had taken under false pretensions.

This kahuna, it is said, has taken money from others, on similar false representations that have appealed to the superstitious fears of his victims.

Letters from Butaritari and Ponape.

The three new missionaries and their wives who went on the *Morning Star* to join the Gilbert Island Mission, arrived at Butaritari July 5th. They have been residing with Rev. A. Maka, and have been instructed daily by him in the Gilbert language so that they had begun to make public addresses, and teach Sunday School classes. They had all prepared letters to be forwarded to Honolulu by the *S. S. Montsarrat*, which was expected to return to Butaritari after it had secured its complement of laborers, to be brought to Honolulu. But the labor vessel went direct to Guatemala, and the letters were forwarded with other matter Oct. 17, by the H. W. Almy to San Francisco, coming thence by the *Australia* arriving here Dec. 29. All were in good health and enjoying the work, submitting patiently to many inconveniences. All

were anticipating eagerly the general meeting of the mission, to begin at Butaritari Dec 25.

When the Captain of H. B. M. S. *Royalist* took possession of the island of Butaritari, Sunday, June 13th, he fired a salute of 21 guns, and issued the following Proclamation: "Her Majesty Victoria, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, having this day assumed a Protectorate over the Gilbert Islands, I would remind all residents in the group, other than natives, that it is contrary to law to supply fire-arms, ammunition, explosive substances or intoxicating liquors to any natives of the Pacific Islands." The King of Butaritari has supplemented this by his royal edict, affixing the punishment of 100 stripes and 100 dollars on any native guilty of drunkenness. Such stringent restrictions on the free use of intoxicating beverages have brought peace and good order to the whole community. There is no theft, no gambling, but every one is busy with his own affairs.

Rev. Z. S. K. Paaluhi, of Tapiteuea, was reported to be suffering badly from rheumatism. Mrs. Maka, in Butaritari, was entirely helpless from paralysis, which has affected her whole body from head to foot. News had reached Butaritari that Rev. W. B. Kapu, formerly a missionary of the Hawaiian Board, had been taken away from Tapiteuea on board the *S. S. Montsarrat*, by order of the Captain of the *Royalist*.

Rev. F. E. Rand, writes from Makin, Aug. 9th, that the *Morning Star* came in upon them quite unexpectedly July 18th. As he could not very well leave the work, Miss Foss went to Ponape, and when she returned reported that the Spanish Governor received her very graciously. He assured her that the other missioneries would be permitted to return to Ponape, and was expecting instructions from Madrid to that effect, to arrive Aug. 23. Mr. Rand, with the help of the people, had put up quite comfortable buildings at very little expense. Of the population of 150, 52 were attending school at the date of this letter. Others had been detained at home by chicken-pox. He was busy in school work, though it was of a more general nature than that in his old training school in Ponape. There were only three scholars from other islands, though it was expected that the *Star* would bring up three or four more from Ngatic. Mr. Rand sends up specimen leaves of a primer he has completed and printed.

Dr. Hyde would be obliged for the return to his library by some unknown friend, to whom he has loaned them, of the unbound pictorial description of the islands of the Northern Pacific (a German publication), and a small book, giving the adventures of a shipwrecked American sailor, during his residence at these Islands 1808-1812.

- (1) See report in New Zealand Herald for 16.^{6.}~~8.~~1892 on the loss of the brig Tahiti, with 450 Gilbertese on board.
- (2) Also a report in the New Zealand Herald towards the end of 1892 stating that the Montserrat was to make another recruiting voyage to the Gilbert Islands.
- (3) Trace a report in the Weekly Examiner of San Francisco (probably during the latter half of 1892) on the voyage and proceedings of the Montserrat, written by a reporter on the journal who sailed as a seaman on the vessel.

20.10.1892

See Pa. 85

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GILBERTS: APPOINTMENT OF RESIDENT

S.S. to H.C., No. 8 of 13.3.93: I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch No. 40 of the 6th of December, respecting the appointment of a Resident in the Gilbert Islands.

I agree with you that in the first place the appointment should be of a temporary nature, and you will perceive from the correspondence between this Department and Treasury, copies of which are herewith enclosed for your information and guidance, that H.M.'s Government can only sanction this appointment on the understanding that you feel satisfied that the contributions from the chiefs, together with the receipts that the officer may collect under the Order in Council in his capacity of Deputy Commissioner, will cover the £500 per annum, which you propose he should receive as salary, and all other expenses that he may necessarily incur in either capacity.

Subject to these remarks, I do not propose to interfere with your choice of a Resident, and have no objection to the appointment of Mr. G.A. Peate who you recommend as specially qualified for the post.

Should you decide to take Mr. Peate down with you and to leave him there on the termination of your visit, you will be at liberty, should you think it necessary to make him a small advance from Western Pacific Funds, to enable him to carry on his duties until local receipts are forthcoming; and I should wish to receive from you copies of any instructions that you may issue to him as to the accounting for all monies that may come into his hands in the performance of his duties.

I have &c.

Ripon

Missionary Herald, June 1893. ✓

.....

At this island Satan has accomplished his purpose in another way. For more than a year, the island has been suffering from a war. Last year, Mr Walkup destroyed ninety guns and the Chiefs promised to keep the peace, but after Mr Walkup left they again set about killing one another.

The British Man of War came later and destroyed more guns and since then there has been no fighting. But I heard on landing rumours of war.

All the coconuts have been tabooed and are brought to the trader to pay debts. During the war a great many trees were cut down, so that Brother Teraoi has had a hard time during the past year to even get enough to eat, and of the \$200 pledged before the war, he has received nothing.

The Church has lost about sixty members. A few left the island during the fighting; we also lost one teacher on this island. Family discord ended in separation, the teacher falling into sin and deserting his work. This leaves but two teachers on this island. Hall [?] the second teacher, though a cripple and only imperfectly prepared for his work, was faithfully teaching to the best of his ability. If the English succeed in maintaining peace there is a bright field for a Hawaiian missionary.

Missionary Herald, June 1893, p.232. ✓

.....

We found the work in good condition, but in great need of teachers and we had none ready to leave; however, we hope to have some next year.

Maka, the faithful Hawaiian veteran was at his post as Pastor, but his wife was in a sad condition, being paralysed in all the muscles of her body and in so helpless a condition that she was unable to undertake the long voyage to Honolulu.

The King of this Island is a Christian and has just returned from America and was very anxious that his people should be taught. He asked for several teachers, there is only one teacher for 3,000 ✓ people.

Strict temperance laws are enforced over the natives, but the white foreigners keep an open saloon in defiance of the law.

Who are the Pagans? The King has asked the English who have now assumed a protectorate to help close this saloon. The Captain of the English Man of War said he might tax it; perhaps the saloon cannot afford to pay taxes and so it will be closed. The Catholics are busy entrenching themselves here, oh, that they would only fight the Devil here and leave us to do the same. But this is not their policy evidently. They have already begun proselytizing and succeeded only the day before our arrival in inducing a lad who was preparing to come to the training school at Kusaie to come with them, promising him fifty dollars a year. The priest had just gone to Sydney to secure a steam vessel for touring, he said.

BUTARITARI LAWS.

European residents to H.C., 22.7.93: We jointly address you in the interests of the signing parties and other Foreign residents who are not present, with the hope that you will have the goodness to inform us of any new laws or regulations that we have to abide by.

As Capt. Davis of HMS "Royalist" upon his departure left rules and regulations laid down by him to the King - on behalf of Her Majesty's Government - were for more than one year wholly ignored by the King, we beg that you will instruct us definitely how we are to act until the arrival of H. Mj's Commissioner here.

From experience of the last year we know that we have no proper authority to refer to in the King here; and fee assured that matters are not improved until we have some other authority than he; to refer to. Trusting that we have not presumed too much in thus addressing you,

We have & C.

G.

- A. Wilson
- H. Muller
- G. Tuchtfeldt
- A. J. Kustel
- Alec J. Derell
- P. Dalch

This island (Butaritari) is already suffering from that mockery of things which and even civilized societies is too often falsely named "progress" which in point of fact is merely retrogression and ruin.

The native population, some 2,000 in number are deeply indebted to the small commercial companies who have established themselves on this small island. Their lands, to a large extent, have temporarily passed out their hands under a pernicious system described as the "clip". They are generally impoverished and it will take considerable time, and will require much good management before the people are free from the thralldom in which His Excellency now finds them, and in which they have been held already for many years.

The High Commissioner does not omit to note that the Hotel proposed by you is not desired for the use or convenience of natives, but for Europeans.

His Excellency, however, does not hesitate to say that Butaritari would be benefitted not by the accession of a number of Europeans to its present residents, but by the departure of half of those now here, for whom the actual commercial capabilities of the island offer no legitimate prospect. This unquestionable fact receives confirmation from your own expressed desire to the High Commissioner for the imposition of such a high trading license as would keep out both redundant and interloping traders.

Apart from the foregoing opinion which His Excellency enumerates in order that you may be fully aware of the tenor of his views I am further to say that the true welfare and happiness of the native population of the islands is at least one of the first objects held in view by Her Britannic Majesty's Government, assuming the Protectorate of the Gilbert Group, and will neither directly nor indirectly would such an object be furthered by the establishment of new Hotels, or by the opening up of new drinking saloons for the few Europeans who form, or will form, a fixed or floating population of the place.

And moreover the native chiefs and people are unanimously and strongly opposed to the opening of any such place in their islands.

BUTARITARI HOTEL.

Sec. to HC (Collet) to Herr Tuchfeldt, 22.7.93: I am directed by Her Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner for the Western Pacific to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant written on behalf of the Jaluit Gesellschaft of Jaluit, Marshall Islands.

The object of your communication is to obtain His Excellency's sanction for the constitution and maintenance of a Hotel in Butaritari of a superior order to those now established here, and so provide for a want in the district which under the changed conditions of the place will be even more necessary in the future than at present.

In reply I am to state that His Excellency regrets he cannot share your views as to the necessity for the establishment of a Hotel at Butaritari, but on the contrary cannot imagine any provision for which there is, or is likely to be, any less need.

This island (Butaritari) is already suffering from that mockery of things which in larger, and even civilized societies is too often falsely named "progress", but which in point of fact is merely retrogression and ruin.

The native people of Butaritari, some 2,000 in number are deeply indebted to the several competing commercial companies who have established themselves in this small island. Their lands, to a large extent, have temporarily passed out their hands under a pernicious system described as the "clip". They are generally impoverished and it will take considerable time, and will require much good management before the people are free from the thralldom in which His Excellency now finds them, and in which they have been held already for many years.

The High Commissioner does not omit to note that the Hotel proposed by you is not desired for the use or convenience of natives, but for Europeans.

~~The High Commissioner does not omit to note that the Hotel proposed by you is not desired for the use or convenience of natives, but for Europeans.~~
His Excellency, however, does not hesitate to say that Butaritari would be benefitted not by the accession of a number of Europeans to its present residents, but by the departure of half of those now here, for whom the actual commercial capabilities of the island offer no legitimate prospect. This unquestionable fact receives confirmation from your own expressed desire to the High Commissioner for the imposition of such a high trading license as would keep out both redundant and interloping traders.

Apart from the foregoing opinion which His Excellency enumerates in order that you may be fully aware of the tendency of his views I am further to say that the true welfare and happiness of the native population of the islands is at least one of the first objects held in view by Her Britannic Majesty's Government in assuming the Protectorate of the Gilbert Group, and that neither directly nor indirectly would such an object be promoted by the establishment of new Hotels, or by the continuation of mere drinking saloons for the few Europeans who form, or are likely to form the fixed or floating population of the place.

And moreover the native chiefs and people are unanimously and strongly opposed to the opening of any more Bars in their island

MILITARY AFFAIRS: EUROPEAN.BUTARITARI HOTEL (contd.).

Sec. to HC to European Residents of Butaritari, 23.7.93: I am
and have petitioned His Excellency to take early measures for
closing the two now open.

The High Commissioner purposes taking such measures
accordingly, as from the 1st January 1894, after which date it
will be illegal to sell alcoholic liquor to be consumed on the
premises.

I have &c.
the arrival here of the Deputy Commissioner appointed to the
Gilbert Island District.

In reply I am
pleasure in giving you
questions raised and that he will at all times be glad to receive
communications or suggestions from you with regard to subjects of
local concern and to that end in negotiating for the establishment
of a steam mail service between these islands and Fiji.

With regard to any new Laws or Regulations under which
residents in the group will from this time forward have to guide
themselves I am to say - as His Excellency has already explained to
the majority of the resident traders who have called upon him -
that the ordinary Criminal and Civil Law of England as provided
for by Her Majesty's Pacific Order in Council 1893, will be
operative, without distinction of persons, excepting in so far as
the same may be from time to time affected by the Queen's Regu-
lations passed for the purpose of providing for any special local
necessities.

The Order in Council referred to, re-enacting the previous
Regulations came into force upon the 29th of June, and so far no
new Regulations have been passed under its provisions.

The former Regulations prohibited the supply to natives of
Arms, Ammunition and Explosives, and of intoxicating Liquors.
Copies of these Regulations are enclosed for your information, and
I am to acquaint you that under the Pacific Order in Council of 1893
the provision of these Regulations are extended to all persons residing
within the limits of the Protectorate.

At this moment, therefore, and in reply to your query, the
existing laws affecting all persons (other than natives who may be
subject also to native customary law) are the ordinary laws of
England, and the Regulations referred to.

With regard to any new Regulations providing for special local
needs and circumstances the High Commissioner has thought it proper
to avoid anything that would come as a surprise upon residents in
the group and therefore defers making operative any new Regulation
that may be deemed necessary until the 1st day of January next.

His Excellency trusts the Deputy Commissioner will arrive in
the steamship "Archer" on her return voyage from Sydney when such
new Regulations will be made public in advance.

The High Commissioner does not intend that the Deputy Commis-
sioner should permanently reside at Butaritari.

Wilfred Collet.
Secretary.

2.
BUTARITARI AFFAIRS: EUROPEAN. (contd).

Sec. to HC to European Residents of Butaritari, 22.7.93: I am directed by Her Britannia Majesty's High Commissioner to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date desiring to be informed of any new Laws or Regulations that you have to abide by. You add further that "as Captain Davis of HMS "Royalist" upon his departure left rules and regulations laid down by him to the King - on behalf of Her Majesty's Government - which were for more than one year wholly ignored by the King" you beg His Excellency will instruct you definitely how you are to act until the arrival here of the Deputy Commissioner appointed to the Gilbert Island District.

In reply I am to say that the High Commissioner has much pleasure in giving you all the information in his power upon the questions raised and that he will at all times be glad to receive communications or suggestions from you with regard to subjects of local concern and to that end is negotiating for the establishment of a steam mail service between these islands and Fiji.

With regard to any new Laws or Regulations under which residents in the group will from this time forward have to guide themselves I am to say - as His Excellency has already explained to the majority of the resident traders who have called upon him - that the ordinary Criminal and Civil Law of England as provided for by Her Majesty's Pacific Order in Council 1893, will be operative, without distinction of persons, excepting in so far as the same may be from time to time affected by the Queen's Regulations passed for the purpose of providing for any special local necessities.

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With regard to any new Regulations providing for special local needs and circumstances the High Commissioner has thought it proper to avoid anything that would come as a surprise upon residents in the group and therefore defers making operative any new Regulation that may be deemed necessary until the 1st day of January next.

His Excellency trusts the Deputy Commissioner will arrive in the steamship "Archer" on her return voyage from Sydney when such new Regulations will be made public in advance.

The High Commissioner does not intend that the Deputy Commissioner should permanently reside at Butaritari.

BUTARITARI AFFAIRS: EUROPEAN (contd).

Adverting now to your observations respecting Rules and Regulations laid down by the Commanding Officer of HMS "Royalist" for observance by the King, the High Commissioner thinks you are under some misapprehension.

The Report of Captain Davis is before His Excellency and he finds that in the interests of both the mercantile community and of the natives, Captain Davis made ten suggestions to the King, the first four of which only directly concerned such community.

That the King has not acted upon such suggestions is much to be regretted, but His Excellency thinks there is little to be surprised at in his omission. Indeed the High Commissioner is of opinion that it would have been very surprising - having regard to all the surroundings and diverse influences operating upon a native chief whose principal weakness appears to be in a desire to please everybody - if he had consistently followed a course of action which could only have provoked opposition among the creditors of a virtually bankrupt native community each of whom, perhaps not unnaturally, deemed himself to have a preferential claim.

The High Commissioner does not wish to elaborate this point. He believes he is communicating with a body of mercantile man who will not refuse to see that business in the island has been pushed beyond its legitimate limits and with the usual embarrassing consequences.

His Excellency has both privately and publicly spoken as strongly upon the necessity of paying all just debts without delay as he feels is consistent with his duty. While the High Commissioner cannot hold out any hope that the Court will take the natives by surprise and enforce the payment of native liabilities incurred under circumstances totally different from those now existing he feels justified in hoping that what he has said to the King and people will have a beneficial effect.

The Deputy Commissioner upon his arrival will should the outstanding debts not have been paid by that time, be enjoined to use his special good offices in the matter and to that end I am to ask that you will be so good as to have ready for his perusal an explicit statement of the debts individually that may still be then outstanding.

In conclusion I am to remark that the present moment is one of transition towards a more secure and regular state of things, and that the High Commissioner invites your cordial cooperation in patiently overcoming the difficulties of the present moment.

I have & c.

Wilfred Collet.
Secretary.

S.S. "ARCHER" IN GILBERTS.

Sec. to H.C. to Henderson & Macfarlane, 16.8.93: I am directed by the Governor to address you with respect to your steamship "Archer" calling at this port, Suva, on her voyages from Sydney to and from the Ellice, Gilbert and other islands.

2. This matter has already been the subject of previous consideration and H.E. will be glad if it could not assume a more tangible form.

3. During his recent voyage to the Gilberts H.E. had an opportunity of meeting Mr. Hird and Captain Henry, but of course, in the absence of instructions and authority from you nothing could be discussed beyond generalities.

4. It is understood that the "Archer" makes three or four trips a year to the Gilberts, touching at the Ellice Group en route, and sometimes even going so far as the Union Group.

5. In the ordinary course of such voyages the ship must pass very close to Fiji. In some cases indeed making an actual detour in order to avoid it. It would therefore not be much out of her way if she called at Fiji on her way to the north, returning to it on her passage southward.

6. In the event of the "Archer" coming to Fiji there is no reason why your firm should not also resume trading at Rotumah, with which island there is very little connection with the outside world, and where there is every reason to suppose you might do a profitable business.

7. As regards this part of the question I am to say that the H.C., as Governor of Fiji, would make arrangements by which you would be relieved from any difficulties in connection with the payment of customs duties leviable in respect of that island. The island you are aware exports about 600 tons of copra annually.

8. The H.C. has not yet positively decided in what part of the Gilbert Islands the permanent office of the R.C. will be fixed, but he inclines to think that the island of Apamama, which is accessible to vessels of considerable depth of water, offers many advantages, not the least being its central position.

9. In the event of this opinion being given effect to, the H.C. would propose to you that after leaving the Ellice Group, the "Archer" should at least once a year, and by previous arrangement with the Commander of the ship, proceed direct to Apamama, embark the Commissioner and then return to Arorai, when the Commissioner would probably be able to work north as the ship proceeded north from place to place upon its ordinary operations. But of course this is a point with which it is difficult to deal without actual experience, so that in the first instance the project can only be regarded as a tentative one. On reaching Apamama the Comm. might thereafter proceed northward to Butaritari and there remain until at least the following voyage of the "Archer", settling, so far as they may be referred to him, the several matters of pressing urgency in connection with that island.

S.S. "ARCHER" IN GILBERTS (Contd.)

10. During this stay at Butaritari the Commissioner will be acquiring information about the Group, and will be better able to confer with the H.C. upon the administration generally of the Protectorate.

11. The H.C. therefore would suggest that you should instruct the Commander of the "Archer" to touch at this port upon his next voyage to the islands and that he, or Mr. Hird, or both of them, should be authorised to discuss on your behalf the whole question with the H.C., stating particularly what expense will be likely to be incurred in respect of the extra steaming of the "Archer", should the present tentative scheme commend itself to you.

12. In any case, the Res. Com. will be in Suva, on and after the 1st of October next in order that he may at least proceed to Butaritari in your steamer.

13. I am to add that in consideration of your entering into an agreement to carry Government Mails between this Colony and the Protectorate, you will be exempt from all Pilot, Light and Harbour dues in this Colony, and that you will be equally exempt from such dues in respect of the "Archer" calling here in or about October, next, for the purpose of enabling the H.C. to discuss these matters with your representative.

14. I am to ask that you will favour me with a reply to this letter in so far as it relates to the calling of the steamer on her next voyage to the north, at your earliest convenience.

I have &c.

Wilfred Collet.
Secretary.

by the rattle and clatter of milk s and ice carts, followed by the r and baker with their free des, and in place of Kamahiai with rden of taro and an occasional of luau, or kapiki, he will be d by plodding John Chinaman, down with the weight of a pair of s laden with a supply of all the lian and half the foreign catalogue en groceries, with something in it line, additional, half the time. visiting the other islands now- ne has not to submit to several rifting in a small schooner, all ffocated in a stuffy so-called cab- over trodden by the live stock and of a deck passage, with food as hen obtainable. Fine steamers ly between all ports of the islands, ng satisfactory assurance of a trip, with all conveniences and ts. And to a still greater degree improvements in our communica- with the outside world. In place occasional vessel to and from the an or South American Coast, with sign mail oftentimes six months te, we have now our regular sail team lines with San Francisco, ng us oftentimes the events of the in six days, with regular packets other Pacific Coast ports, the Colo- China and Japan, Boston, Liver- Bremen, etc.

some few things we have perhaps traded in the past quarter century, ough our harbor has not boasted ring 200 ships at a time since the y days" in the early fifties, we ow growth to a more uniform and antial basis, both commercially and ially, than the dependence upon haling fleet allowed. During the years of plenty at these islands the visits and refitting of whale- from 1853 to 1859; the value of annual imports ranged between 9,669 to \$1,590,837, and our ex- from \$172,996 to \$931,329, of t latter from one-third to one-half foreign re-exports. The customs ues during the same period aver- less than \$140,000 per annum, and nternal taxes ranged at about 00 a year. The annual taxes the few years have exceeded half a n dollars, and the customs receipts still ahead each year. The value r domestic exports the past ten hich has ranged from \$8,133,344 3,874,341, has at times more than ed the total imports each year. ndustries, almost wholly agricul- which may be safely said now to d \$15,000,000 per annum, have ded since the decline of the whaling and largely within the past twenty

The Custom House gives no s of exports values for 1843, hence, ove development is entirely with period of *The Friend's* existence. the next fifty years witness as ctory advancement.

First Mention of the Puritans.

I have in my possession a detailed account of the temper of parties in Eng- land, drawn up in the year 1585, three years before the Armada came. The writer was a distinguished Jesuit. The account itself was prepared for the use of the Pope and Philip, with a special view to the reception which an invading force would meet with, and it goes into great detail. The people of the towns —London, Bristol, etc.—were, he says, generally heretics. The peers, the gentry, their tenants, and peasantry, who formed the immense majority of the population, were almost universally Catholics. But this writer distinguishes properly among Catholics. There were the ardent, impassioned Catholics, ready to be confessors and martyrs, ready to rebel at the first opportunity, who had renounced their allegiance, who desired to overthrow Elizabeth and put the Queen of Scots in her place. The number of these, he says, was daily increasing, owing to the exertions of the seminary priests; and plots, he boasts, were being continually formed by them to murder the Queen. There were Catholics of another sort, who were papal at heart, but went with the times to save their property, who looked forward to a change in the natural order of things, but would not stir of themselves till an invading army actually appeared. But all alike, he insists, were eager for a revolution. Let the Prince of Parma come, and they would all join him; and together these two classes of Catholics made three-fourths of the nation.

"The only party" he says (and this is really noticeable), "the only party that would fight to death for the Queen, the only real friends she had, were the Puritans (it is the first mention of the name which I have found); the Puritans of London, the Puritans of the sea towns." These, he admits, were dangerous, desperate, determined men. The numbers of them, however, were providentially small.

The date of this document is, as I said, 1585, and I believe it generally accurate. The only mistake is that among the Anglican Catholics there were a few to whom their country was as dear as their creed—a few who were beginning to see that under the Act of Uniformity Catholic doctrine might be taught and Catholic ritual practised; who adhered to the old forms of religion, but did not believe that obedience to the Pope was a necessary part of them. One of these was Lord Howard of Effingham, whom the Queen placed in his high command to secure the wavering fidelity of the peers and country gentlemen. But the

force, the fire, the enthusiasm came (as the Jesuit saw) from the Puritans, from men of the same convictions as the Calvinists of Holland and Rochelle; men who, driven from the land, took to the ocean as their natural home, and nursed the Reformation in an ocean cradle.—*J. A. Froude in Longman's.*

Enlisting Japanese for Guatemala.

Captain Walter H. Ferguson has been in Honolulu for several weeks past, engaging Japanese laborers to go under contract to work on coffee plantations in Guatemala. He has secured about 150, whom he proposes to forward as an advance party.

Captain Ferguson may be remembered as the party who last year secured a shipful of laborers from the Gilbert Islands, and conveyed them to Guatemala on the steamer *Montserrat*. There was no complaint of fraud in securing the laborers, which was done under the observation of a British war-ship. They appear also to have been very well treated on the voyage. It is alleged that there has been great mortality among them on the plantations in Guatemala. Of the truth of this we know nothing.

The Japanese Consul and other authorities here are greatly opposed to their countrymen going to Guatemala, with which country Japan has no treaty to secure them against ill-usage. One Antone Cloys and others have written to the papers denouncing the ill-treatment and hard fare of contract laborers there. Professor W. T. Brigham who is a high authority, also gives unfavorable testimony. The general character of both social and political conditions in Central America gives strong presumption against security and protection being well assured by law to contract laborers from foreign lands. They are a class easily oppressed and needing strong and upright rulers and magistrates to secure their rights.

Captain Ferguson has caused Antone Cloys to be prosecuted for criminal libel, as well as the editor of the paper in which Cloys' statement appeared.

It is certainly important to the cause of justice and humanity that all such enterprises as those of Captain Ferguson should be thoroughly scrutinized. Journalists who aid in doing this are rendering an eminent public service. Ferguson and his attorney Paul Neumann were conducting their operations with a secrecy which no doubt may be quite consistent with honorable and humane intentions. Yet in view of the past terrible abuses attending labor shipments, we are glad that the *Star* and the *Advertiser* have turned their search lights upon the whole business.

SWAYNE: DEPARTURE FOR GILBERTS

HC to SS No.57 of 20.11.93.

"Mr Swayne is accompanied by a Fijian (native) Sergeant of Police, who will receive a salary of £15 a year, and also by another Fijian who has resided for some four years in the Gilbert Group, and who speaks good English. This native will be employed as an interpreter and will receive salary at the rate of £18 a year. For some little time Mr Swayne will be accompanied by Tekiatoa and Tamamau, the two Gilbert Islanders referred to in my despatch No.28 of the 2nd September. They have, I think, acquired much useful knowledge during their visit, and may possibly be retained permanently on the staff.

6. I have thought it advisable that Mr Swayne should buy provisions here for rationing his constables, as the native food obtainable in the Gilberts would not be suitable for Fijians, and other food would cost more (when obtainable) in the Gilbert Group than in Fiji.

7. I have also supplied Mr Swayne with a small amount of office furniture and stationery. A portion of the latter has been supplied from High Commission stock and so far as is not required exclusively for Court work I propose to debit the Protectorate with the cost, and credit the High Commission account."

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.....

REPORT ON GILBERTS: 1893

RC to HC, 21.12.93: All Gilberts S of Line in similar state to Ellice, i.e. little copra and trade dull.

No attempt anywhere to pay the 2/- native tax. But rain will change everything and release large quantities of nuts stored against famine.

Collected native laws in force and as instructed will have Corrie translate and send to HC.

Onotoa Told people that if they could not get money they shd collect copra at the rate of 50 lbs per taxpayer.

Kaubure want $1\frac{1}{2}$ cts per lb whereas trade price is $1\frac{1}{4}$ - told them they cld sell where they liked but no trader gave $1\frac{1}{2}$ cts.

Complaints that Samoan Missionaries inflicted fines. Defined duties of Kaupuli & missionaries and admonished teachers. Catholic enquired whether Cath would be exempt from tax.

Noticed large deposits of apparently pure carbonate of lime - shd be of commercial value. Acres of nuts killed by sun.

Nikunau went to church - 150, all badly or scantily dressed. Women all wore ridiculous bonnets decked out with paper and ribbons of the most gaudy colours

Kau consider only effective punishment to be deprivation of land. Cath spoke in opposition to Kau saying that he was instructed that he had to keep four laws only.

Throughout group informed foreigners that while they were under English legislation they must not interfere with native authorities but confine themselves to their legitimate business.

Beru Natives had repeatedly stolen or damaged beacons erected by 'Archer'. Instructed to put up 6 substantial beacons of coconut logs.

91 engaged at Fanning - 3 years term had expired. Many other labour away and more ready to go. Bokaboka used for food - said that no canoe taking it to Nanouti ever reached that island.

Nonouti Woman convicted of murder and sentenced to death by Kau. On suggestion Kau reduced to manslaughter and sentenced her to life imprisonment on Butaritari.

Tabiteuea Kau gave me unusually hearty reception. Ordered to stop working women with children on roads.

Abemama No European traders - less drought - large amt of copra shipped by High Cjeif's Agent - few debts to trading vessels.

Town shows more labour expended and is cleaner than any place to S in Gilberts. Almost entire absence of children betokens rapid decadence.

Maiana No of Tarawa natives here who apparently did no work but consumed much food. High Chief directed to send them home, when weather moderated. Native debts said to be 200 tons.

High Chief and Kaubure strongly in favour of continuation of local law punishing adultery by deprivation of land. Land also taken away for theft.

Tarawa In maniaba meeting High Chief seemed slightly under influence alcohol said to be sour toddy. Tem Matang and his 2 uncles Tem Tekanaiti and Tem Beru are ruling powers. 2nd has greatest influence.

Not many years ago a German man of war deported all the leading chiefs to the Marshall Islands for a term and finally made Tem Matang the present High Chief's father the ruling authority.

During last war debt of \$9,000 incurred for arms and ammunition. Many thousands of cartridges were blazed away and some 7 men killed. The late King TemMatang being shot in his sleep terminated hostilities. Guns collected and handed in.

Marakei Looked best of all - traders in better houses and trade better - traders paid poll tax and license in advance.

Gert. Sanderger trader had land taken away because son married a younger sister - restored and substituted \$20 fine.

Measles introduced by 'Morning Star' 1891 - 79 deaths.

Another younger sister came alleging forbidden to marry except to her eldest sister's husband and requested permission. "I was unwillingly obliged to refer her to the local authorities to whom I suggested a careful consideration of the custom of marriage. Land tenure is of course the ~~root~~ root and the difficulty where land is so limited."

Abaiang Chief Kaia seems to have his people well in hand and to be respected both by foreigners and natives. Probably best native govt. in Group.

Butaritari arrd 7th Dec and after some diff procured quarters in the house lately occupied by Mr Tuckfeldt

.....

DISTURBANCE ON MARAKEI

J.G. Hitchfield A.M. Hitchfield
Hitchfield Bros.
Commission Merchants, etc.

Maraki,
Gilbert Islands, Decr 25th 1893.

Hon C.R. Swain,

Dear Sir,

This also on behalf of the traders of Maraki, to acquaint you of an uprising which broke out here shortly after you left the Island, on a/c of a certain faction not wishing to comply with your new laws.

The bitterest feelings exist, and the Island is almost stripped of cocoanuts and popoi.

So far the Rebels have eight dead and several badly wounded, whilst the Royalists have lost but one man.

The Rebels have been cornered, and ordered into their canoes, which would mean death to nearly all, as their canoes are not fit to go to sea. If they stop on the Is. it would be the same by a slower process so it has been deemed advisable by the King and the traders for me to take them away to Apiang, or Tarava until peace is restored - the King and Councillors agreeing to pay their passage.

Respectfully,

Jno. G. Hitchfield.

.....

FRANCESCO VALLEIRO

From documents re administration of his estate by C.R. Swayne, dated 22.12.93.

B. Hird of Henderson & Macfarlane daid he left Beru about August 1891 for Mexico or Guatemale on 'Tahiti' brig of San Francisco, with Blanchard, also of Beru, and Charles Lowe, from Arorai.

None of them heard of since. Vessel reported lost about the end of 1891. Seen floating bottom up on American coast.

He had a trading station and a small lot of land adjoining, also a trading house at the town of Tapiang.

Pending settlement Hird has possession of house by ϕ agreement with Kaupuli and keeps it clean and in repair. All his movable trade placed by Kaupuli and teacher in locked room.

Ah Young was partner of Valleiro and looked after his business when he left before for about three years.

Nicholas Hary Hansen in possession of house for H. & M.

Locked room contained general trade: rusted hardware, tools, old rifles and muskets and a sword.

.....

SWAYNE: INAUGURATION

RC (Swayne) to HC, 28.12.93: Arr Makin Island 7.12.93.

Chief's son Nantiata, who seemed a quiet and fairly intelligent man, appointed Magistrate and another Scribe

Foreign residents anxious about extensive native debts. Informed them that as DC could have no cognizance of debts incurred before 29.6.93, but as Br. Res. would receive accounts and as far as possible forward a settlement of any debts due. Large no of claims received.

Jaluit Gesellschaft has lodged papers intended to prove that the system of giving credit here was forced upon them through the action of the American firm of Wightman Bros taking liens on the usufruct of native lands and so threatening to monopolize the whole business of the island. (Minute by Thurston: How long since W. & Co appears in business? When did the 'clip' system begin? But after all what does it matter?).

By the mail am ford to Mr R.D. Corrie the Chief Interpreter the Native Laws for translation. I hope they will reach Fiji by this Steamer.

(Tekiatou?)

Tekiatou brought on to Butaritari with wife with some difficulty - a very useful man and I am much pleased with him - Uamau dismissed as useless.

.....

Missionary Herald, February 1894. Editorial paragraph. ✓

.....

Our friends need give themselves no concern about the reports received by way of San Francisco in regard to the rigour of British rule in the Gilbert Islands or the restrictions put upon American traders. Great Britain annexed the Gilbert Islands more than a year ago and the restrictions placed upon trade have been, so far as we have any information, distinctly in the interests of good order and righteousness. Those lawless foreigners coming from the United States or elsewhere, who have traded in rum, firearms and tobacco, may rise a hue and cry against the newly established regulations in reference to their traffic, claiming that American interests are set at naught. But the testimony that we have from reputable sources is that the British rule in the Gilbert Islands is promotive of quietness, temperance and good order.

GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS: TAXATION

HC to SS, No.6, of 17.2.94.

"I have the honour to enclose herewith copies of Agreements entered into with the Chiefs of the islands of the Ellice Group with regard to the jurisdiction of the High Commissioner's Court, and to the levy of a local contribution for the maintenance of the Protectorate.

2. Like the Gilbert Group the islands of the Ellice Group have been suffering from the effects of a prolonged drought, as well as from the hurricane (a most unusual occurrence) of February 1893, and until the drought breaks - which ~~is~~ in the ordinary course of things should be before April next - it will be impossible to obtain much in the way of a contribution.

3. Mr Swayne reports that the following contributions per man have been offered.

Nukulaelae	1/-	
Funafuti	1/-	
Oaitupu	-/6	pay in copra
Nukufetau	1/-	
Nui	2/-	
Nanomaga	-/6	
Niutao	-/6	
Nanomea	-/6	

4. I am not sure, however, whether man does not mean "human being", and not "able bodied male". The former I find was the meaning attached to it by the natives of Apamama when they suggested a tax of 2/- per man. Presuming the amount offered to be per head of the population it would amount to about £120, and this should be sufficient at all events for the present.

5. When this contribution is received I should propose that ~~h~~ the accounts of the High Commission and of the Protectorate ~~shd~~ should be separated in the manner indicated in my despatch No.29 of the 2nd September/ last respecting the accounts of the Gilbert Group Protectorate. It will not be necessary for a Resident to be established in the Ellice Group, which I propose should be visited once a year by the Resident for the Gilbert Group. I propose the Ellice Group should pay the salary of the Resident for the period during which he is in the Group, and that it should also bear a small proportion of the cost of the mail service from Fiji, if one is arranged.

6. I am inclined to think that in the Ellice ~~Group~~ as well as the Gilbert Group it will be necessary from want of coin that taxes should be paid in copra."

.....

GILBERT ISLANDS: TAXATION

HC to SS No.9 of 20.2.94.

Announcing Swayne's arrival at Butaritari.

Most is. still suffering from drought "worse than when I visited them in July last." In some coconuts stored for food instead of being made into copra.

If no break no revenue bar licences from traders and contributions from the 3 or 4 islands which have not suffered as much as the others. But after rain the islands recover with very great rapidity.

"6. Mr Swayne informs me that owing to the scarcity of coin in the group it will be impossible to obtain payment of taxes in coin. He, therefore, proposes that each island should be assessed to pay a certain amount of copra, the amount to be paid to be dependent not altogether on the number of inhabitants, but to some extent on the productiveness of the island. Until this scheme can be carried out Mr Swayne has arranged to accept 50 lbs. of copra as the equivalent of the 2/- levy proposed, 2/- being the amount paid to the natives for 50 lbs. of copra by the local traders. By collecting the tax copra together and selling it in large quantities direct to the vessels of the larger firms a much higher price, at present equal to an addition of 75% can be obtained. At this rate ~~an addition of 50%~~ a tax of 50 lbs. of copra for every able bodied man would bring in a return of £900, and Mr Swayne proposes that for the year 1895 the amount of the levy should be increased, for the ordinary years the natives can well afford to pay more."

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BUTARITARI DEBT ENQUIRY

Thomas Murphy (usually drunk) Englishman arrd in Gilberts 1878 settled on Butaritari 1879 - sailor - connected with Wightman Bros since 1880 - not paid by them but gets goods from them and sells his copra to them. Has debts back to 1884 - first took a lien on crop in 1884 - when he took a clip he got $\frac{1}{2}$ clip and other $\frac{1}{2}$ went to whoever made the copra - it was speculative

On Chong & Co - C. Wau Sau manager - headquarters Sydney - had been trading in Butaritari for abt 20 years. Station first at the island in the south passage - after a little time shifted to present place - station closed in 1887 because of a change in the firm and debts sold to Mr Rick (abt \$2000 sold for £50). Reopened Sept., 1888.

William McMillan naturalized American arrd 1885 from San Francisco as 2nd mate of the W.H. Stevans - had intention of settling here - recd permission from King and settled at Cooma. Traded 1st for A. Crawford & Co - then Grinnell Crawford & Co - then Jaluit Gasellschaft (the last 2 years).

RC to HC, 13.3.94: No desire on part of natives to repudiate debts. During enquiry natives frequently helped claimants by providing particulars of an account. "The relations between the Traders and the Natives is very different to that which existed in Fiji at the time of annexation." "I find traders treat natives with a consideration which to me was unexpected. Natives have neither meanness nor subserviency. To a trader, and all foreigners, with the exception of the Agents of the Catholic Mission are or have been traders, a native is a client who will keep to him if he likes him but will take his own and his ~~relations~~ relatives business elsewhere if he discovers that he is imposed upon."

Trader on Little Makin for Wightmans compelled to leave as natives suspected him of tampering with his scales, so that his business has fallen away to almost nothing. "There is no such thing as personal illtreatment of natives. Competition is very keen and aids in maintaining the native rather in the position of patron of the foreigner than his client in business."

Claims allowed: Butaritari - \$18953.19; Little Makin \$4984.22; total \$23937.41. Total claimed \$32434.29. No of claims - 1223.

Firms trading in group cultivate practice of a sham independence in traders; i.e. instead of paying salaries to employees customary on a trader taking charge of a station to give him a list of native debts and charging him with that amount and the value of stock and buildings to bind him by agreement to sell all copra received to his patron firm.

Word 'clip' signifies the cutting of a crop of coconuts - native term 'tiari'.

Gilbertese, particularly on M prolific is of Little Makin, dont wait for mature nuts to fall but cut bunches down as soon as there is a slight fading of the chlorophyl.. Every nut atall approximating maturity slashed down to ripen on ground and head of coconut cleared of refuse leaves, etc. On L.M. this system of forcing the palm into crop is carried to the extent of slashing down coconuts too small and immature to be of any use. Natives claim that they get more nuts by this system and that leaving nuts to fall through maturity injures the bearing power.

Apparently first persons to advance money on clips to be taken were Hawaiians living with and trading with the local Boston Mission Agent the Rev. Maka who came here in 1866. Clip system in return for advances of money or goods pushed to extremes by Mr Rick who came as manager and pioneer for Wightman Bros. of San Francisco in 1880 or 1881. Mrs Rick, clever though badly educated, quickly acquired language and considerable influence with natives.

Appt of her husband as American Commercial Agent greatly increased that influence which was directed to the robbery of the natives through clips, which on being collected paid them several hundred or perhaps a thousand % on advance made. Separate books kept of clip transactions.

From date of settlement of first trader, a Chinaman, license fee of \$100 p.a. payable to Uea by all traders. It was therefore not difficult to persuade authorities to pass a regulation prohibiting a native in debt to one trader to take copra to another.

Perhaps greatest evil was that natives learned to buy and sell clips among themselves. Ridiculous laws passed for breach of which fines \$30, \$50 or \$100 were inflicted and native unable to pay a portion of his land was taken by Uea. To save his land he usually got an advance of ~~non~~ money on clips.

In Sept, 1890 local manager for On Chong & Co. and Haups Agentur den Jaluit Gesellschaft wrote to High Commissioner at Jaluit re injury and injustice of clip system pursued by Rick. HIGMS /s/ 'Sperber' visited B in May 1891 and Uea and chiefs influenced to sign regulation forbidding the mortgaging of land or crops.

Clips ceased but system of keeping natives in debt continued. Mr Rick not long after ~~removed~~ relieved of office of US Commercial Agent on representations made by local traders to Washington and in Sept 1891 he either resigned or was relieved of the Managership of Wightman Bros. business. The books of the firm were sent to San Francisco and charges of misappropriation of money are said to have been made by Wightman Bros against Mr Rick.

"It is claimed that Mr Rick conducted the business of Wightman Bros for his own personal profit/ in the taking and manipulation of clips.

It seems to be beyond doubt that by means of clips and such-like disguised robbery Mr Rick made large sums of money."

Mr John Wightman arr Butaritari 1894 while enquiry on.

Payment of debts placed in hands of local authorities to collect copra and sell or deliver up at wholesale rates (1 3/4 cts per lb) rather than each individual paying direct at retail rate (1 1/4 cts per lb.). Payment thus possible because Uea has right to take nuts from all lands for any public or indeed I believe private purpose.

Butaritari and Little Makin Traders - 1894

P. Kannenguiser
F. Langemuisser
A. Wilson
On Chong & Co.
W. Broecher
B. Dolch
W. McMillan
G. Tuchfeldt
W. Murphy
J.W. Kanoa
Namerio
Wightman Bros.
Namattau

On board HIGMS 'Sperber' - Butaritari May 18th 1891.

Know all inhabitants of Butaritari that I the King Bureimoa of Butaritari after due consideration, to prevent that the natives of Butaritari should be made poor and penniless and deprived of the income of their land and crops have given and published the following regulation

I

One and all natives of the islands of Butaritari are hereby forbidden to mortgage their land or a part of it, the crop or the crops for a certain or uncertain period of month, years etc. to any firm or trader.

II

If any mortgage of the kind aforesaid should be taken from a native, this mortgage shall be void and null in whosehatever traders or firms interest it should be made.

III

This regulation shall come into force from this day of the publication

Bureimoa Butaritari

Nam Buraka

An Tiribo

.....

John Wightman Jr. to Swayne, 10.3.94: Mr Rick left by 'Equator' for San Francisco 26.9.90 leaving wife in charge, intending to have his salary increased, but tendered resignation on health grounds on arrival. Graham engaged as Manager. 'Almy' (Capt. Luttrell) one of Wightman's vessels.

Tuchfeldt to Swayne, 15.3.94: Petition to US Govt, Washington, for removal of Rick as US Commercial Agent was made up by Capt Luttrell and sent on by him. It was signed by most of the residents.

F. Langemuissner: Sailor - naturalized American - arr March 1892 in 'Almy' from San Francisco under agreement to Wightman Bros. After month working on station took charge of Terimalake station. No agreement - receives commission on sales - works under Dolch. Had to give credit to get business.

Kanoa: Came to Gilberts 1865 as minister - retired 1883 - receives no pay but helps with mission work at times. On leaving mission commenced trading. Do not know what capital I started with. Had 8 pieces land costing \$349 paid in money, rice and biscuits - bought these when minister. Sold one piece to Wightmans for \$625 but still hold others. Lives on one piece of land with wooded houses, store and dwelling house. Has traded for Wightmans. Owes On Chong \$400 for \$800 worth of goods purchased from Crawford & Co on winding up - goods now in stock. Have rights to nuts on 31 pieces of land.

G. Tuchfeldt: Agent for Jaluit Gesellschaft at Butaritari. Four outstations. Butaritari made head station in March, 1893.

Mr Rick left Wightmans in 1892 - had been manager for 10 years. Credit to natives ceased on proc of Prot in 1892. Mr Rick was for about nine months in 1892 manager for Crawford & Co at Butaritari

A. Wilson: trading for Jal Gess - manager of Kiuee station - came to is in 1889 Kieue (?) ~~not~~ then only station of Co - Butaritari station started after and still later became head station for firm in group.

Before giving credit in 1890 stated case to firm in Jaluit. They authorised me to give \$1000 credit. Later wrote that opposition

firms giving credit and it would be nest to suspend business for a time. Firm thereupon authorised me to give out \$2500 credit to natives.

.....

GILBERT AFFAIRS 1894

RC to HC, 21.3.94: Butaritari debt claims \$32,434.29 and found to be equitably due \$23937.41. Will be collected without difficulty.

Little Makin production 700 tons worth at 1 3/4 cts per lb \$27440.

On first arrival slight coldness on part of Uea and Councillors - now changed to implicit confidence - Uea most energetic and evidently anxious to push his people ahead.

Difficulty of getting enough teachers. Not enough being trained at Training School of the Boston Mission at Kasaie. Gilbertese seem either indifferently instructed or else to revert easier than Fijians or Tongans to heathen practices and gross immorality.

"The mission appears effete and unable to do the work it has taken in hand." Rev A.C. Walkup the Supt and sole white representative in group.

Return of Exports from the Gilbert Islands
Protectorate in the year ending December, 1893

<u>By</u>	<u>Copra</u> ^{lls.} tons	<u>Shark Fins lbs</u>	<u>Value</u>
Henderson & Macfarlane 'Archer' SS	886460	4280	\$15941.05
On Chong & Co.	900480	1500	\$15908.40
Jaluit Gesellschaft Butaritari	187416		\$3279.78
" " 'John Wesley'	1255313	1564	\$22124.37
'Fink'	203059		\$3553.54
Wightman Bros.	738000		\$12915.00

\$73722.14
or
£14744.8.7.

Hawaiian Missionaries in Gilbert Islands January 1894

<u>Name</u>	<u>Commissioned</u>	<u>Island</u>
Rev S.P. Kaaiia & wife	1886	Tabeteuaa
Rev Z.S.K. Paaluhi & wife	1887	"
Rev. (?) Kaaiia & wife	1892	Apaiang
Rev P. Mahihila & wife	1892	Maiana
Rev I Nua & wife	1892	Makin
Rev I. Teraoi (Gilbertese)	1890	Tarawa

Catechists - 7

Other Teachers - 9

Schools (irregular attendance of teachers) - 21

Kusaie Training School Boys seminary - 20
Girls " - 14

Above information obtained from Walkup.

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GILBERT AFFAIRS 1894

Swayne to Thurston, 30.5.94: Rain fallen as far south as Kuria. but frequent and heavy rains still needed to recover islands.

Walkup's report that Beruans were reduced to eating mud turns out to refer to eating of 'bokaboka' by natives of s. end, and this is a common practice with them.

Collection of part of Native Tax from islands of Line is all that can be expected during 1894.

Butaritari NG improving "The Native Magistrate does his work justly and with intelligence. The Uea though walking with difficulty sets a good example to his people. He is always busy. I hope his present mode of conducting his affairs may continue. It is not long since he was a leader in war, drunkenness, and debauchery."

Great increase in Butaritari school attendance but not enough teachers for village schools.

Police too numerous on B but useless to reduce until Native Regulations have been in force some time. Pay small. "At present the people have no respect for a policeman as a policeman and resistance is not uncommon." It takes many police to arrest drunk, as one drunk or excited is indifferent to life. Sour toddy is curse of group and as it can be made and drunk in secret without the slightest trouble it will be difficult to prevent.

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SWAYNE REPORT: 1894

RC to HC, 19.4.94: Archer reports drought not yet broken in Southern Islands - under circs collection of tax due Dec last will be impolitic in some is and perhaps impossible in others.

Islands watching outcome of Marakei trouble - false impression which may have been formed thru delay will be quickly corrected on arrival gunboat HC has indicated is coming.

McCarthy, Br subject residing Tabiteuea died intestate.

2 whalers called in Feb - one at Little Makin and one Tamana - latter American purchased 50 pigs for trade.

Delay in payment taxes Tab and Nonouti due ill feeling between Kaubure of N & S ends - at Nonouti some squabbling and several wounded - have not visited N end Non and S end Tab said to be the troublesome districts.

Maiana people said to be drinking sour toddy and Corrie complains of their conduct.

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'Sperber' FINE ON BUTARITARI

Swayne to Thurston, 30.5.94: Brought up by Uea and several traders - as far as justice is concerned unique but pre-Protectorate so can do nothing.

Tuckfeldt, local Agent of the Harept Agentur den Jaluit Gesellschaft of Jaluit, arrd in March 1890 at Butaritari. While engaged in erection of buildings for station he rented a small 2-roomed cottage in which he lived & did business. During his absence conduct of business left to woman - his housekeeper Maia of Abaiang but long resident in Marshalls.

He later found goods missing and goods given away by Maia - claimed deficiency of \$1000 in his trade. Claimed that greater part given by Maia to natives of Little Makin then at Butaritari. Enquiries there elicited nothing.

T then made demand on Uea for return of \$1000 worth of goods or that ~~amt~~ amt in money. Matter reported to firm in Jaluit and shortly afterwards HIGMS 'Sperber' arrd and enquiry held and Uea ordered to pay \$600 to T. in good coin (English, American or German) or in local currency (Mexican & Chilean coin) at rate of 62½ cents to dollar.

After 2nd visit to 'Sperber' money paid by Uea.

T stated that all he knew was that Maia had told him that she had given away his property. Maia bears bad character and can be scarcely wondered that Uea still fails to see why he was made to pay \$975 to the German Agent here.

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CELEBRATION OF QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY

Swayne to Thurston, 5.6.94: first celebration 24.5.94 - entertainment for foreigners and natives. Regatta in morning, sports in afternoon and fireworks in evening. Day will long be remembered by natives.

Number of foreign sailors ashore - spirits only obtainable from the Committee, with happy result that not one case of drunkenness.

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REMOVAL TO ABAIANG

HC to RC, No.15 of 6.6.94: since 'Archer' does not call at Butaritari at present for trade but only to land mail and it will therefore be necessary to pay for deviation, possibly you could rent a house at Abaiang and set up h'q there for a while. This wld also enable you to devote more of your attention to other islands.

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BUTARITARI KING: VISIT TO UNITED STATES

HC to SS, No.28 of 16.7.94: The despatch is concerned with the complaints of the Rev. E. Bontemps to the SS re Thurston's behaviour during his visit to Butaritari, but in it he mentions:-

"It is incorrect for the Reverend Father Bontemps to say, as he does in the 5th paragraph of his letter to your Lordship, that the so-called King of Makin was conveyed to San Francisco in the Protestant Mission vessel, and that he was there gained over at once to the American and Protestant cause, owing to the present he received. As a matter of unquestionable fact, - and this shows how little the Reverend E. Bontemps really knows of the circumstances of the group in which he has lived for seven years - the so-called King of Makin was taken to San Francisco by the American trading firm of Crawford and Company; who did not omit to charge him some thousands of dollars as the cost of his passage and 'the presents' he received at San Francisco.

There can be no doubt, for all the circumstances are known to me, that the American traders, whose head offices were at San Francisco, did endeavour to induce the so-called King of Makin to represent himself as the King of the whole of the Gilbert Group, and they did endeavour to represent him as desiring, in that capacity, the Protection of the United States Government. But the Protestant Mission had absolutely nothing whatever to do with this endeavour, and there is no particular friendship existing between the American trading companies and the American Missionaries; the former in short accusing the latter of competing with them in business."

.....

CATHOLIC COMPLAINTS RE THURSTON

HC to SS, No.28 of 16.7.94: Thurston re complaints of Rev. E. Bontemps. Hostility between 2 missions injurious to natives and dangerous to administration - 2 hostile camps.

He never preached, as alleged, in the American Mission Church at Butaritari but investigated charge that Am Miss had been in the habit of fining natives 5/- or equiv in kind for non-attendance at church on Sunday - natives and chief asked that imposition be ended.

Natives explained that glad to go to church but that interminably long sermons of the missionaries so bored and tired that they could not refrain from going to sleep. As an alternative they stayed away and were then fined 5/- each. They declared, and the statement was not denied, that they attended church from 8 o'clock in the morning until 12.30 or 1 pm. They complained that their clergy were not content with one sermon at ~~each~~ one service, but that no sooner had one man ended his sermon than another began.In the end I exhorted the people to go to church, and the Missionaries to preach shorter sermons. As for the fine I prohibited it altogether.

Next day visited RC miss station & then held school examination at the Prot miss church finding pupils sadly deficient in the most elementary knowledge, as compared with other mission estabs that I have visited in other parts of the ~~World~~ Pacific. Gave best boy and girl $\frac{1}{2}$ sovereign each.

.....

Missionary Herald, July 1894. Editorial paragraph. ✓

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The King of Butaritari is a zealous Christian, as is shown by the fact which we referred last month, that he refused to allow any of his subjects to go to San Francisco to give exhibitions of the customs and mannerisms of heathernism. He was probably more zealous than wise in a recent enactment imposing a fine of five dollars for every absence from Church on the Sabbath. The end he sought could probably be secured in a better way than this. The new British Commissioner repealed this law and has made education compulsory.

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Missionary Herald, November 1894. ✓

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Mr Price, who it will be remembered, was formerly a missionary in China now on his way to Ruk, writes of his impressions received while the Star was stopping at Butaritari. First of all he speaks of the King's Wharf - this wharf was build by the King himself - it extends about one half mile into the lagoon, is built of coral rock and altogether a very creditable piece of work for a King of such a people.

On shore we found ourselves in a new world, the like of which we had never seen. The King was away on business so that we did not go and pay our respects to him, but we passed by his palace, a neat wooden building covered with sheet iron, and also his stables built for his American horses and cart which he has imported and for which he has made

a road through his dominious fifteen miles long. This King is really a remarkable man for a Gilbert Islander, he is a devoted and consistent Christian and is doing what he can to give his people just and humane laws and to elevate them to a higher plane of life. One of his laws prohibits fishing on Sunday or otherwise violating the sacred day, another is against drinking the toddy after it has fermented or has an odour strong enough to be detected on the breath, so that an islander may be arrested if his breath smells of liquor. Another law forbids drinking foreign liquors. Mr Walkup says the King is now framing a law against divorce, he has put away all his concubines and is living with one wife and trying to establish Christian homes. The home life here is greatly effected by the warm climate, it is hard to cultivate the love of home where it is too warm for people to come close together. The home and patriotism are fostered in the snow.

SWAYNE'S REPORT: 1894

R.C. to H.C., No. 79 of 7.8.94: I have the honour to report as follows for Your Excellency's information.

HMS "Ringdove" Lieut. Commander Gordon Bremer arrived at Butaritari on the 20th June, with Your Excellency's despatches and on Sunday the 24th June I left in her for Apaiiau Island.

1. Before leaving Butaritari I held, by request, meetings of the native chiefs and foreigners Residents - the latter being anxious as to the payment of native debts.

2. As I have already had the honour to inform you in my report on the Native Debts of Makin the Uea is the person through whom the debts are being paid. At the time I left Butaritari \$3,000 of the \$23,000 debt had been extinguished. The effect of placing a tabu on the disposal of copra, except for payment of proved debts was satisfactory in this that many thousands of dollars were in course of trade worked into the hands of firms who had formerly introduced this coinage to their own profit. It is unlikely that natives will again be willing to receive other than English coin from the traders.

3. I gave the officials printed copies of the Native Regulations received by HMS "Ringdove". These Regulations had I may say been in use for some time and the Magistrate had made very fair progress in knowledge of his duties. The Government of Makin is now in a satisfactory state.

4. Reaching Apaiiau on June 26th I remained on shore till the 28th. Held meetings, introduced the Regulations, and dealt with a variety of matters not necessary to report in detail. I enquired of the Marakei refugees as to the cause of the fight at Marakei. Selected the leading men Matai, Namanuku, Tamannana and Taioro with their wives and children for conveyance to Marakei in HMS "Ringdove" where I was instructed by Your Excellency to deal with the authors of the disturbance in December last year. Several cases against and between Foreigners were dealt with.

5. In the meeting a trader complained that owing to the tabu put on tobacco buying in this island, the people drank sour toddy. The King and Kauburi indignantly refuted the imputation that they were obliged by their religious teachers to tabu tobacco. The tabu was put on as a sort of tax on luxuries by the Uea and Kauburi as owing to drought, coconuts, with which tobacco is bought were scarce:- The American Mission instructs the people that smoking is inconsistent with a full profession of faith and I know that the result is in some islands that the people have taken largely to chewing tobacco and I dare say increased drinking of the fermented toddy, the curse of the islands, has, as complained of by the local trader of Apaiiau, been the result of the tabu here.

Little rain has fallen here. The population of the island is by census of December last 2,107.

6. I arranged that a tax of £69 should be paid for 1894 by this island and I received a portion of this sum and have paid it into the High Commissioners account.

SWAYNE'S REPORT: 1894 (contd)

Marakei.

7. Having embarked the men already named, at early dawn on the 28th, Marakei was reached the same evening. The arrival of HMS "Ringdove" appeared to cause considerable excitement, the beach being crowded with people.

I will have the honour to report in a separate despatch upon the proceedings arising out of the war at Marakei.

8. As the result of enquiry and prosecution under Orders in Council 1893, the King and Kauburi were sentenced, the former an old man, to deportation for two years, and the latter to pay a fine of £200. I subsequently dismissed the Kauburi and directed the people to elect eleven new men, which was done. One of these, who is perhaps rightfully the High Chief was selected Magistrate and as from all accounts he was a reliable and strong man I approved the choice.

9. I gave them copies of the laws, answered all enquiries and gave what instruction was possible in the time, as to the administration of justice. The Chief town Rawanawi I found over run with dogs, some of them dangerous to strangers. The local authorities promised to kill them off and eat them.

There will not I think be any further disturbance here.

10. Application was made by a Captain Kesster of "John Wesley" to be allowed to take a native woman to the Marshall Islands. I refused the application as he had no permit.

11. It has hitherto been the custom here (on account of succession to ownership of land) for the eldest sister of a family to be first married and for the other sisters to be prohibited from marrying unless the eldest sister died when one of them could marry the husband of the sister deceased. This custom will be considered by the Kauburi and if possible done away with.

The Native Tax for 1894 is arranged at £68:15:0. I collected 94 stand of arms of various kinds.

Tarawa.

12. Having arrived at Tarawa Island on the 1st July a landing could not be made owing to rough weather till the evening of the 2nd July.

On the 3rd and 4th July I held meetings and courts in the

Maniaba.

13. There were three complaints here by Foreigners of robbery or damage done. In two cases dwelling houses had been entered and property stolen. The Uea seems to be wanting in authority and to have little influence.

14. There were also a large number of cases of disputed title to land as between natives. These, as they often lead to bloodshed, were settled by the Kauburi under my direction.

15. The tax paid for 1893 was £26:2:0, considerably less than should have been collected. As there is now a promise of increased production of copra through the rain the Kauburi agree to pay £98:0:0 for the year 1894 (ending July 1895) and I released them from further payment for 1893.

16. A man Teutabane, well but warmly dressed in European clothes, complained that he could not pay any tax, not even one shilling. It

SWAYNE'S REPORT: 1894.

appeared on enquiry that he was a man comparatively well off. Audacious falsehood is much more common in the Gilberts and Ellice Groups than in Fiji.

17. The cases *Termaintau v Meyer*

Lodge v Kowara

Lodge v Tokora

Ross Grant v Native

were dealt with in the Court.

18. The state of Tarawa Island is on the whole worse than that of any island in the Gilberts. The towns are dirty and the Uea seems to be quite unfit for the position. I informed him and also the Kaubure that unless there was an improvement a change of Native Officials would be made.

19. No one seems to trust the Uea and what is done in Government matters is through his uncle Temtekimiti whom I appointed Magistrate.

20. The King of Apaiou claimed some land called Autabuka on this island and as his claim was allowed as good and not opposed I directed that he have possession.

21. There are about \$3,000 native debts due to Foreigners according to estimate made.

22. As soon as the rain has restored the bearing powers of the nuts these debts can be paid with ease.

23. On leaving on the 5th July Lieut. Comm. Bremer invited the Uea and Kaubure to witness some shot and shell practice which seemed to impress them.

24. *Maiana*. On the 6th July I landed at *Maiana* Island and in order to save time and coal of HMS "Ringdove" held a meeting at Mr. Corries.

25. I gave the Uea and Kaubure the laws and confirmed Teru Peru as Magistrate and Timakai as Scribe.

26. The tax for 1894 was settled at £50.

27. There had been a great deal of drunkenness lately on this island and an attempt had been made to get possession of the arms in Uea's possession.

28. A longer stay on this island would have been useful, but time did not permit. Lieut. Comm. Bremer not wishing to draw fires in an exposed anchorage.

29. *Abemama*. Arrived at *Abemama* on the 8th July. The Uea of this island had written me some time previous that a large boat of his had been stolen. I heard from Mr. Corrie that it had been found on the reef at *Maiana* and I had had it returned by the "Archer" S.S.

30. I had the honour, some time since, to send to you some correspondence with Mr. Reist who complained that he was not allowed to trade at *Abemama*. I was informed by the Kaubure that Mr. Reist ordered them to build him a house and threatened them with punishment by the United States of America when they refused to receive him.

31. The debts of the island are (excepting what is due to the S.S. "Archer") \$1857.00. The "Archer's" claim I could not ascertain as the local super cargo was absent at *Kuria* Island.

32. Some rain had fallen here and the wells were less brackish than when I visited the island in November 1893.

33. On arrival at *Entrance* Island (*Bike*) on the 7th I landed with Comm. Bremer and Lieut. Willis and examined the island with a view to its possible use for storing coal. Owing to the current running strong

SWAYNE'S REPORT: 1894 (contd.)

- in the anchorage and the long shore reef coal could not be as conveniently stored here as at several other places.
24. The island of Abemama is in good order. I gave them the Native Regulations. Tem Tekanaiti was appointed Magistrate. A scribe and some policemen were also appointed. The Native Tax for Abemama was settled at £55:10:0 for 1894.
25. The roads on this island are not good. The Kaubure undertook to improve them at once.
26. I impressed on the young Uea Paul that he must pay attention to his lessons. He is a very clever boy but even now seems to be beyond the control of his relations.
27. On July 13th the "Ringdove" reached Nanouti Island. This is one of the islands requiring more than ordinary attention and I was able to remain on the island till the 17th. The Government is by Councillors. I found that the nine towns returned 181 Councillors and that the Council spent most of their time in quarrelling.
28. I induced them to reduce the island Council to thirty-four members who were elected and installed as the Government of Nanouti.
29. A Magistrate and Scribe were also appointed. The Native Regulations were read and explained and the scribe and Magistrate instructed in their duties.
30. The chief town being some ten miles from the anchorage and there being a difficulty as to the boats working in the fresh breeze then blowing I had the people collected to Te Motu the town near the anchorage.
31. The chief men of each town brought the tax (1893) to the meeting. The total amount was \$191.37½. The Council agree to collect a sum of \$455 in English coin as tax for 1894.
32. The Council desired to kill off the dogs of which there are numbers on this island but feared the anger of the owners.
33. In all the islands south of the Line where the Government is democratic it is most difficult to get men to assume authority or do any act displeasing to their fellows. I directed that all the useless dogs should be killed and eaten by the people on the following day.
34. Many of the natives on this island are Catholics and there is apparently a strong feeling of dislike if not enmity between the adherents of the Catholic Mission and those of the Boston Mission. I was occupied nearly the whole forenoon with matters arising out of religious differences.
35. The Catholic Mission gives free education and take no annual subscriptions. The Kaupuli desired that the Boston Mission Schools should also be free. I explained the position to the Kaupuli pointing out that both Missions were supported by the charitable contributions of foreigners and that the least they could do was to give a few coconuts monthly to the teacher of the school. If the Catholic Mission would not take contributions the people were so much the more indebted to them.
36. I found that each town had a sum of money, fines inflicted so far back as 1884 and carefully preserved since. The total amount of \$307.50. I recommended them to devote it at once to some public purpose. Most of the money is I believe Chilian coin.

SWAYNE'S REPORT: 1894 (contd.)

46. I was able to arrange with the traders on the island that they would in future pay in English coin and Mr. Brechenfelt will till December 1894 receive dollars from the natives in payment for goods.

47. On Saturday July 21st HMS "Ringdove" anchored at Nukufetau Island. Here I found a letter left by the S.S. "Archer's" Supercargo stating that the coal, some eighteen tons might be taken at £2:15:0 per ton. Lieut. Comm. Bremer decided to take the coal which turned out to be only thirteen tons of very poor coal.

48. The population of this island in 1864 was 250. It is now 270. The production of copra could be trebled if the people would only thin out the groves of coconuts and cut down the scrub.

49. I examined four of the islands in the lagoon and found them all equally good. The people are very dirty and very lazy. They were suffering from influenza at the time of my visit. Tokolau ring worm is common. The houses are small and badly built. I instructed the Tupu and the Councillors to build better houses and keep the town clean.

50. A quantity of good fish were stranded on July 22nd but because it was a Sunday the natives feared to pick them up and utilize them. I got a few people together and after some hesitation and my assurance that they would not be fined they carried them up to the Mission House where I had them divided out to the principal men.

51. The tax for 1894 is arranged to be £20.

52. The contributions of these people to their Samoan teacher and to the London Missionary Society varies between \$150 and \$200 annually. They also feed the teacher and work for him.

53. On the 24th July HMS "Ringdove" sailed for Nukuleilei which we reached on the 25th in the evening. The greater part of the 26th inst. was occupied in enquiring into a number of complaints laid against C. Barnard a West Indian native resident here.

54. I think that some of the complaints laid against this man who is married to a woman of the island and has a family, arise from jealousy of Barnard's occasional employment as interpreter. A case of larceny of coconuts could not be gone into as the witnesses were away at Funafuti.

55. I left Ioni Amosi police Sergeant on this island and upon my return I will again enquire into the differences between C. Barnard and the native authorities of the island.

56. On the 4th August I had the honour to report to Your Excellency at Suva.

57. The drought throughout the Gilberts is broken. On the way down from Butaritari I experienced rain at every island but I need scarcely mention that it will be many months before this rainfall appreciably affects the trade of the islands.

I have &c

C.R. Swayne

British Resident, Gilberts.

TAXI PAYMENT OF GILBERT

TENTATOON OF MARAKEI: DEPORTATION OF

R.C. to H.C. of 10.8.94: I have the honour to report to Your Excellency the deportation of Tentatoon, High Chief of Marakei for the term of two years.

I enclose for your Excellency's information a copy of an enquiry I held on arrival at Marakei and also a copy of the evidence in the case Regina v. Tentatoon and others.

2. It appeared that enmity had existed for some time between the eastern and western people of this island. Four or five years ago there was fighting between the parties.

3. The Govt. of the island has not been for any length of time of the present form.

4. Tentatoon is spoken of by the people as having been first put in power by the late Hawaiian Missionary and as having been confirmed when the flag was hoisted at his house by Capt. E.H.M. Davis of H.M.S. "Royalist" in 1892.

5. Your Excellency will notice that all or nearly all the Kanburi under Tentatoon belonged to his town of Rawnawi.

6. The Kanburi now elected are representative of the whole island and I have every expectation that the government will work better than it has done. The chief Tamaiti at present Chief of the Kauburi and Native Magistrate is the nephew of Tentatoon and should he conduct himself well should I think be made Uea of the Island.

7. The cause of the trouble between the people of Rawnawi (Tentatoon) and Taramainiku (Mataio) is I have no doubt the partiality shown by the Kauburi in all cases in which people of Taramainiku and Rawnawi had differences.

8. There seems to be little doubt that Taramainiku people were punished with greater severity and more frequently than those of Rawnawi.

9. In sentencing Tentatoon who is an old man, to deportation I took into consideration that from the islands of Maiana, Tarawa and Apaiau, I had information that the people were anxiously watching what punishment would be inflicted on the Uea and people of Marakei.

10. Both the Maiana and Tarawa people commenced drinking sour toddy and Mr. Corrie informed me that an attempt had been made to get possession of the arms in the Uea's possession.

11. The knowledge that the Uea of Marakei was a prisoner on board HMS "Ringdove" had as we touched at other islands a very satisfactory effect.

12. I have reason to believe that the six men killed in the fight were not all shot dead at the first discharge. I had reliable information that the wounded were killed and mutilated in a horrid manner. No evidence of this could be got from the Mainineku people as they at once ran when fired on and the Rawnawi people would not of course criminate themselves.

I have &c.

C.R. Swayne.

British Resident, Gilberts.

TAX: PAYMENT OF GILBERT

R.C. to H.C., 10.8.94: I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 14 on the 20th June last.

1. Since I had the honour to report to Your Excellency proposing that the native tax of the Gilbert islands be levied in copra I have had the opportunity of learning much of the way in which trade is carried on in the Group and for many reasons I think that it will be best to continue for some time at least the collection of the tax in money.

The collection of the tax in kind would at present require an amount of supervision which cannot be given to it. I find also that the natives are strongly in favour of individual payment of tax in money.

In the month of June at Butaritari I found that I could not obtain a higher offer than $1\frac{1}{2}$ cts. for copra taxes if delivered in 1894.

Messrs. Henderson & Macfarlane; Wightman Jaluit Gesellschaft all offered $1\frac{1}{2}$ ct per lb for tax copra.

Under the circumstances I have directed the payment of this tax now due in English coin and I would say that almost every trader is now provided with english coin with which to purchase copra.

I have &c.

C.R. Swayne
British Resident, Gilberts.

TRADING: DEFINITION OF

R.C. to H.C., 13.8.94: In addition to the amendments in the Gilbert Regulation which I have had the honour to submit for your consideration, I would propose that there be a clause defining trading as applied to vessels.

The landing of goods on merchandize and/or the shipping of island produce might be considered as trading.

The vessels running in the Group are all engaged in trading directly or indirectly with the natives.

I have &c.

C.R. Swayne, British Resident, Gilbert Group.

SILVER FROM GILBERTS

REVOLVERS FOR POLICE: GILBERTS

R.C. to H.C., 13.8.94: I have the honour to apply for an advance of the sum of Thirty pounds with which to purchase revolvers for the police and other articles which Your Excellency has already approved of as being requisite.

C. Re Swayne
British Resident.
Gilbert Group.

Please get Auckland or Sydney to realize: Possibly they are not worth more than the value of the silver for melting down.

SILVER FROM GILBERTS

Sec to HC to Manager BNZ, Suva, 5.9.94: HC has recd following silver coins from Gilberts -

Mexican and South American dollars \$366.75

Spanish dollars \$5.25

Rupees 10

Hesse 1 pfund piece / equal in weight to about a florin

Please get Auckland or Sydney to realize. Possibly they are not worth more than the value of the silver for melting down.

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KANNENGIESSER: MURDER AT BUTARITARI

Imperial Commissioner at Jaluit to Count ~~Op~~ Caprivi of 7.10.94.

P.V.G. Kannengiesser, former capt of merchant ship and latterly trader of Jaluit Co. in Gilberts murdered by 3 cuts of swords by Butaritari police.

Born 25.2.55 at Spanday son of burgomaster of Brandenburg. Resided B. since 25.2.55 - quiet & harmless. Swayne absent.

"In view of the savagery and brutality for which the Gilbert Islanders are notorious, throughout the South Sea, a speedy and exemplary punishment was much to be desired especially as the murderers who are not properly guarded and who communicate with the puter world through their relations have threatened to murder more whites as they are sure to be executed.

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Jaluit Co. ask that Chief may if necessary be called upon to pay full compensation. But CO reply that "the custom of exacting compensation in respect of a murder, in addition to punishing the murderers, is very rare in countries administered by this Department which have been brought under a system of regular law ... in any case it would have to be shown that the tribe or chief was responsible for the murder or had tried to shield the murderers."

.....

~~Murderer subsequently reported in custody in F.A.M. but but/ but/ but/ of case not traced.~~

.....

HC to SS No.16 of 6.3.95. Murderer, Nan Taunebo, found guilty in Fiji and sentenced to death. Chief of Butaritari had arrested him immediately and information against him was laid by the Chief's eldest son (the principal person in the local native executive under the Chief). Accused native of Abaiang - once a policeman at Butaritari but long dismissed.

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RC to HC, No.5 of 23.1.95: Deceased was a sub-agent of the Jaluit Gesellschaft (Mr Tuchfeldt, agent). Had been master of a trading vessel belonging to German co in Marshalls. Said to have had more than one woman of Okiang (Ukiangiang?) village living with him.

MARAKEI: TROUBLE ON

HC to SS, No.39 of 5.9.94: Investigated by Swayne.

People of Taramainiku dissatisfied with local Govt, believing worse treated than those of district where Uea Tentatoon lived. Ivo constitution of Kaubure reported by Swayne probably correct. Several Taramainiki people sentenced to work on reef in passage into lagoon - refused - Uea decided to use force - both sides armed. Uea deceived Davis and Thurston re no of guns remaining in his possession.

Tentatoon deported, with one servant, to Gau, where Ratu Sakiusa i/c Lamaiviti will see to housing and feeding in return for payment to Gau people by natives of Marakei.

In doubt whether matter, ivo to Marakei having submitted to jurisdiction of HC's Court, Tentatoon were triable for making war. But it appears that matter was a political one was a political one which Resident was justified in dealing with as ~~matter of state~~ Act of State. Fines to be collected from various Kaubure.

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RC to HC, 26.1.95: Marakei people sending quantity of Kabubu (prepared pandanus) to Tantatoon, late Uea. Freight paid - have requested it be handed to Govt Storekeeper pending instructions.

.....

He had no arms - home small - native neighbours thoroughly conversant with all his ways.

He confined himself to his own business & spent much time, generally at night, collecting stones from the sea coast, to build a high wall round station. _____ fathoms of wall, 5 feet wide at base & 6 feet high had been completed.

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GILBERT ISLANDS: TAXATION; AND HEADQUARTERS

HC to SS, No.48 of 18.12.94: Swayne reports great difficulty in organizing system of payment of taxes in copra, and local merchants have tendered prices very little exceeding those obtainable by the natives on the sale of small lots. For the present, therefore, taxes will be paid in coin.

I have left to S's discretion question of removing office from Butaritari. He will do so if he can find decent quarters elsewhere, which is doubtful.

HC to SS, No.57 of 16.12.95: I have entered into contract with Mr James McGrath for erection on Betio of Resident's residence, Court House, small gaol & 2 small houses for Interpreter & Constables. Contract price £890.

When Clerk is apptd one of constable's houses can be made available for him to live in, with slight additions. Other buildings can be of native materials.

Surplus of about £400 expected at end of year, from both Prots. £30 rent for Betio land, about 100 acres, with coconuts and pandanus and suitable for growing babai. Shd therefore in course of time become self-supporting.

.....

poured in and the pot placed on top of a fire. For the men, coconut milk is added before heating. But for the women, it is poured only after it is cooked. They use only one or two coconuts, or just one half, using a shell to scrape the meat which will then be squeezed by the hands, adding some seawater to make it salty and tasty. The husband never eats together with his wife and daughters, but eats with his sons. The daughters' food is set in a bowl, but the wife's food is placed in the empty halves of a coconut, with some leaves from the cooking pot, with some juice. They sometimes give some food (in these coconut cups) to some related families, but such a practice is expected to be repaid in the near future. They dislike any raw things like fish, or food half cooked. They are very careful of what they eat. When they have a lot of fish or pigs, they dry them, then store them until the day when they will be used for food. The children are forbidden to eat certain foods, such as turtles, but these practices seem to be disappearing as they see how our children eat everything. The young boys living with pastors have begun this practice, in spite of their parents' disapproval.

X. TEMA TO SEC. SDC JUNE 1895
(October 1895:147)

From Sulu Samoa Oct 1895:147

Trans. by Hokise (Ph.D. thesis, ANU 1983)

After the visit of Mr Newell and Miss Moore, we initiated a new method of dividing the working year into four parts. This idea was very much appreciated by the young people, and it is done right up to the present. Generally, the work is going well. There are still many who attend services and children are still keen on attending schools.

The major problem facing us is the Popish church. It is amazing how many tricks their priests have to get people to attend their services. Two priests visited us again in March. They persuaded the people with goods such as clothing, money, tobacco and biscuits. They gave so much of these things to the people, and not surprisingly, some were won over to their teachings for material possessions. If a person attends their service, his name and land is taken down. They have also told the village 'Look at those Samoan pastors, they have come out of their want of things, such as lands and other material goods, from you. And so they have put you under bondage. For it's untrue that a pastor should be fed by a village, on the contrary, a pastor should provide his own food. Look at us, we bring out own food, we have never asked you for any foodstuffs or any other things unlike those Samoan pastors.' They have also told the people that it is not necessary to give offerings or donations to either the church or the pastors.

We have tried to explain the nature of Popish claims by explaining the nature of church offerings and donations. Both of these things are commanded by God. People must give offerings to Him. 'You must also give my servants their due pay for their work'. We gave them biblical texts to support and substantiate our arguments. False pastors who are not God's servants will hide such things from the people, and thus act dishonestly before God. And they do this because they are in fact against Jesus Christ and his teachings. But true servants and pastors of God are willing to reveal the

totality of His word and Will so that the people may understand the nature of the pastors' appointment, which is not to mislead the people, but to tell them about Jesus and no more.

The above words were well received and they aided many to realise the truth.

The Popish priests also abolished civil laws. These were the laws:

- (a) everyone must go to Church
- (b) no one is allowed to fish during worship time
- (c) no one is allowed to elope

These laws were well respected prior to the arrival of the priests, but not so after they landed. This annoyed the chiefs, for they formulated the laws to control the behaviour of the people.

The British governor arrived in June 1895. The chiefs pleaded with him for help and we missionaries also presented a testimonial letter of Popish activities. As a result, the priests were given specific instructions by the governor not to interfere with village laws, but concentrate only on their work. The chiefs were to control civil affairs. The governor said many harsh things to the priest and the laws were again respected.

A priest also tried to bring rain by conducting services along the village path. After three days of continuous service, there was still no rain and he became very angry with his followers. He explained the lack of rain was due to the unwillingness of everyone in his church to join in the service.

On 29 May 1895, we had a meeting with the Popish church leaders. It was brought about by a letter which we wrote and sent to the pastors in Nikunau, informing them that the Popish priest was in the habit of delivering various goods to members of our church; and that he threatened to confiscate lands from their rightful owners.

When some members of the Popish church in Nikunau learned of the above, they left the Popish church and came back to us. But those who remained were angry and came over to Beru to find out the truth claiming that we made up the above accusations. And so they came with their minds made up that we should be fined if the story is untrue. On arrival, they asked members of their church who told them that we were liars and that we should be fined 1,000 coconuts. We thought this was unjust and subsequently appealed to the chiefs for an examination of the charges. They agreed to this. When everyone assembled, we were summoned. The popish followers brought their white priest to intimidate us. I was chosen by my colleagues to represent our case. First, I told the chiefs everything the priest had done - the presentation by the priest of various goods to his church, the roll book kept for names and lands and the efforts to acquire people's lands forcibly. Suddenly the priest clapped his hands and said to me 'untrue! untrue!'. I then asked him, 'Did you not give to

the people clothes, money, food and tobacco?' He answered 'no!' I then asked members of our congregation 'Did the priest give you any of the things he denied?' They replied 'It is true, he gave us all those things! The priest did not look up or at me. So I asked him again 'Is it not true that you have taken down the names of the people and their lands?' He said 'no!' But when Tema asked the people, they replied 'yes'. I next turned to his accusers from Nikunau and said 'Is it not true that you came here to find out if what you heard about the behaviour of the priest was true? Well, you have now heard, everything is true! Why then should we be fined?' They all replied 'You are right, it is all true!'

On 25 June, the Commissioner from Butaritari arrived and restored order. He also gave instructions that children must attend schools - the chiefs were to see that this was followed by the parents. He further gave instructions about caring for us Samoan pastors. This was precipitated by a comment from one of the priests to the people, 'Why have you held on to these Samoan pastors, send them home because they think they are kings, you have slaved to feed and clothe them. Don't give them any more food, tell them to go home, you must unite under the white pastor who is recognised and well known in their church. But those Samoan pastors came here and were not even recognised and well known in thier home church.' Members of our church were very hurt, and as a result, asked the Commissioner, 'Sir, what is to happen to the Samoan pastors, for some people think that they are not important, that they were not appointed and also that food should be taken for them?' The Commissioner asked in turn 'Who said that?' The people pointed to the priest and the Commissioner said to him 'You have seen this flag, it is for the protection of Samoan pastors by the authority of Queen Victoria!' To the people he said 'The same flag protects you. Now you must look after the Samoan pastors well in our things, and give them a good salary for you have been blessed very much as a result of their work. You must love them, as they love you so much that they had to give up their homes and country to come here and help you.'

XI. LILOGO'S REPORT OF HIS WORK IN ARORAE, 10 NOVEMBER 1895
(February 1896:32-33)

From Sulu Samoa Feb. 1896. 32-3

- (1) No one was excommunicated. *Trans. by Hokise (Ph.D. thesis, 1983)*
- (2) Schools: It is amazing the enthusiasm the children of this country have for learning, so many want to learn and actually attend classes. Our main problem is lack of teachers - would the many bright people in Samoa think of our need.

Grade 6 - 46 pupils)	194	This figure does not include
Grade 5 - 54 ")		Grade 3 to infant class
Grade 4 - 94 ")		

- (3) Famine: Still with us. But our loving God has been gracious in that we have received some small amount of rain, thus aiding the growth of our crops - coconuts, pandanus and puraka.

The heat in this country is incredible. No wonder they regard Samoa as a cold place.

- (4) Gifts: Our people gave some mats for the John Williams visit last September to show their appreciation of the new missionary ship.
- (5) Population: approximately 430 including children and women. Two old men died, plus two young girls and a boy.
- (6) Location of school: The school is located at the centre of the village - a total of five houses - one for school purposes and four as living quarters for the boys. The girls live with their families. The headmaster also lives off campus. The school is guarded by security officers who are also the prefects of the school.

This report is for the two villages of Lolesi and Famaloa on the island of Arorae. On the eastern side is Lolesi where pastor Fipane is in charge. On the western side is Famaloa where I am in charge. Between the two villages is the school campus. Both Lolesi and Famaloa have village councillors as well as one magistrate each. The secretary for both magistrates lives in Lolesi. Arorae is under British rule. A code of laws formulated by the British Governor is observed here.

New communicant members in Famaloa - 7 men (married)
15 females (married)

<u>Ekalesia membership:</u>	Lolesi - Men	67)	141
	Women	74)	
	Famaloa -Men	57)	143
	Women	86)	
	Total		284

<u>Membership Class:</u>	Lolesi - Men	30)	61
	Women	31)	
	Famaloa -Men	6)	31
	Women	25)	
	Total		92

<u>Births</u>	Famaloa	1
	Lolesi	6

Gifts for the Missionary Ship: The people greatly appreciate the newly launched Messenger of Peace, although they were sad that they were not able to contribute much in terms of financial assistance to its cost because of their poor economic state. As a result, they felt that they will give the best thing they have to show their appreciation. Thus 18 fine mats were given.

Some points about clothing: They are not used to keeping

their houses or themselves clean. However, through the instructions given by native pastors, there has been some change, both in living conditions and (their) health. Now clothes are the acceptable mode of public dress. They are not keen to wear good clothes though. When they see someone wearing new or nice clothes, they will tease that person with statements such as 'He is trying to be a European' or 'He wants to look like the pastor!'

It is usual for them to sleep in the clothes they worked in during the day.

XII. MATA'ESE TO SEC. SDC MILNE BAY, 1895
(April 1896:226)

Apoaina is the great god worshipped by this side of New Guinea, even to the many islands to the east. The story of the origin of Apoaina goes like this: he is a person of the forest. 'A pregnant woman went to the forest to gather flowers, and a flower fell on her head which killed her, but her baby was nevertheless born and lived. The child found a root of a certain tree and sucked at it. When he grew up he saw a skull lying beside him and he said to himself 'What is this?' 'Why did I come to the forest?' Then he thought 'Perhaps this skull was my mother'. He turned his attention to chasing the creatures of the forest and succeeded in catching many. He broke off their heads and tried to fit them to the size of the skull, but none fitted, so he continued to sit around. One day, he heard noises of children playing in the nearby river. He attacked and killed one of them, cutting off the boy's head. The head fitted the skull and he said to himself: 'This is indeed my mother.' 'The village where the children came from must be the village who killed my mother.' So when he heard children's voices another day, he once more attacked and killed one of the children. And he did this many times.

The leader of the village decided that everyone would hide around the river, but the children would go in the water. Perhaps Apoaina would come out and then they would catch him. And this was what they did. Apoaina was caught. He tried to escape back to the forest, but the people said to him 'Don't run away, let us stay here, this is our village.' Apoaina stayed.

One day, he went along with the men on a fishing expedition. When the boats arrived at the designated spot, the nets were thrown overboard and everyone dived over including Apoaina. When they came up for breath, no one had caught any fish except Apoaina. Everyone was amazed, for they knew he was a man of the forest.

On another day, the people of the village said to him, let us go to the forest to hunt for wild pigs. They took the net to trap pigs. They spread the net, then went about chasing the pig towards the net. But Apoaina caught every pig before it reached the trapping net. Everyone was amazed.

Missionary Herald, June 1895, p.239. ✓

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Banaba or Ocean Island is a way off to the east, but some two vessels have visited it this last year buying their shark fins.

The Church work is steady, but school children must help to fish or go hungry, thus the teacher has no regular school day, but a good Sabbath school. We notice one great change: not a canoe comes after us on the Sabbath as on former visits.

Nauru or Pleasant Island is under the German protectorate, and last year the teachers were taken away at the request of the German Commissioner. Now numerous letters come from Chiefs and people asking for books and visits from the missionary's vessels. They are keeping up their schools started by our teachers and they report 200 still studying. ✓

I made a visit to Jaluit to interview the Commissioner in regard to them. This new Commissioner has been told that the Chiefs hated the teachers and thus they were sent away. When told that such was not the case and when he saw the many letters to the teachers he promised to visit the place himself if possible or to send to make an investigation. He could not return the teachers without the Chiefs' consent, but books might be sent to them at any time. I have sent them a box of Bibles and they have the Word of Life and are able to read if no teacher is permitted to return.

GILBERT ISLANDS: PROCEEDINGS

R.C. (Swayne) to HC No.3 of 19.1.95: on all islands S of Abemama Chief Kaubure (or President of the Island Council) has been elected: by Council and confirmed by me - tenure 2 years, as "in these tiny republics the people are very jealous of any one of their number assuming or exercising domination". Done of HE's insts, to centre the responsibility of govt.

Arranged for census - est of town burial grounds & cessation of interment in towns. At Butaritari remains of 2 Uea long kept above ground duly interred.

At every is in 2 groups Native Govt. now composed of one responsible man with a Council as Executive, plus a Magistrate and Scribe with Policemen. Foundation laid for good Native Govt.

'May' has apparently recruited 45 men and women in Gilberts. They are being engaged for sugar plantations despite the fact that "owing to the excessive mortality in the past it is not now permitted to sugar planters in Fiji to indenture Line Islanders except under very exceptional circumstances."

Arorae

F. Hulsen, trader, leaves - trade poor & could not get on with natives. His tobacco stolen and as Kaubure cld not find culprits directed amt to be levied on towns. Fight to settle who is to be Custodian of the Island Fund. Land disputes settled "in one of the cases the Kaubure had sat two days wrangling and finally indulged in a free fight without result (so far as the settlement of the question)".

Onotoa "Here as at all the islands the custom of paying police in cocoanuts leads to many abuses and must be done away with as soon as circumstances and policy permit." Kaubure wished people to dance & Samoan pastors objected - compromise arranged by which dances not filthy or obscene permitted during day, on festivals and under direction and order of the Kaubure.

Nikunau Arranged appt by Kaubure of Magistrate, Scribe and C.K. Tendency of Catholics to keep separate. Many land disputes so instructed C,K, and 2 Ks apptd by the Council to be a Board of Enquiry to settle all such cases.

Beru "Kaubure (Old Men) of this island number over one hundred and twenty and as they all want to speak it was requisite to reduce the numbers. This I did by forming a Council of the Island out of the Councils of the several maniabas". People reptd to have plenty of firearms but unwilling to give them up as wanted to keep off thieves. "I directed the Kaubure to collect the arms to the several maniabas. It would be impolitic to remove them at present but when the Native Government is more suited it can be done and the people will willingly surrender them."

Tabiteuea Rec'd \$108.50 of the fine of \$500 inflicted on is by Davis. After previous payments only \$6.12 due. "When I entered the maniaba at Utiroa I found it crammed with men women and children a small space in the centre being cleared for me. Every old man desired to shake hands. Nine tenths of the men had judging by their bloodshot eyes and dirty wild appearance been drinking sour toddy. Unpromising as they looked I found them obedient, willing and interested in what I had to say to them". Cleared out children on plea too hot - got Kaubure to front. "Sometimes a speaker got very excited and had to be told to sit down. They are a rough lot of people but when their native government is in good working order they will make rapid progress." They agreed to keep the dead but one day above ground. Wished to kill thieves/ No shhools or teachers at south end and reported bad lot. Many cases in which land was taken as punishment for crime or in war but declined to go into these as "they were right by the custom of the time or the ruling power of the day. I explained to some of the applicants that if their land was given back to them strict justice would require that they be hung." Abortion said common - Kaubure instructed to stop practice.

"Kaubure desired to know what punishment they could inflict where womens noses were bitten off by men (a common practice). I directed them that in addition to imprisonment with hard labour they could flog the culprit."

Nonouti Reached Dec. 26 - warned that people drinking over Christmas and dancing and some might be dangerous, so put 3 loaded revolvers in a small black bag and kept with me. 186 Kaubure - 32 previously elected to attend monthly meeting. Several absent and drunk so meeting selected substitutes. Native Magistrate behaved well and charged whole Kaubure as not assisting him to enforce laws. CK also dismissed for being drunk and Kauabaua of the family of the former Kings of Nonouti apptd in place. No police as Kaubure had dismissed them as they stole and got drunk, so K did their work.

Temaiua tried for murder and sentenced to transportation for life. Taken to Maiana and placed in charge of Uea.

Abemama Uea Bauro only a boy Matters of business disposed of with less difficulty than elsewhere and no disputes. "The land and the cocoanuts are all the property of the King and the produce is brought to him and disposed of by men called supercargos. Formerly there was but one. I found thirteen and as I had information of their doings I dismissed all but Te Buk a man well spoken of by all and supercargo in the time of the late King. Te Buk and the Chiefs then appointed two men to assist him. Though quantities of copra had been sold there was no money in the safe and little food or goods in the store. Valuable boats were becoming useless and there was no money to pay police."

Maiana Good road just made through island. Is very unsettled -

✓ people at north end making spears and clubs in support of a murderer Tengaua who had been tried and condemned by Kaubure. Swayne had case again heard and murderer was shot. Mr Corrie interpreted, despite islanders previous charges against him, as Tekiatao was too nervous of trouble.

Beche-de-mer and pearl shell here but people are too lazy to fish them up.

Marakei all well and Govt. working well.

.....

GILBERTS: H.Q. FOR GOVERNMENT

R.C. to H.C. No. 12 of 26.1.95: I have the honour to report as follows on the site of the Resident Commissioner's residence not yet fixed.

The relative advantages and disadvantages of the most suitable sites might be thus described -

Butaritari has a good lagoon entrance. It is the Headquarters of three firms each having a sailing vessel trading in the Group. It is little affected by droughts and has more communication than any other island.

On page 249 of the Admiralty Sailing Directions for the Pacific Islands (Vol. 11, 1891 2nd Edition) fresh water lagoons are stated to exist. There are no fresh water lagoons in the Group but the trading firms on Butaritari have large cisterns for the supply of fresh water to vessels.

Abemama. The passage is and always will be somewhat difficult and dangerous but it can be much improved by laying a few buoys.

In company with Lieutenant and Commander Bremen and Lt. Miller I examined Biki an "Entrance Island" but found it unsuitable in many ways for the Residency.

On the island of Abemama a site could be obtained without difficulty.

Your Excellency is aware that the Uea of Abemama is sole owner of the land and produce of the islands of Abemama, Kuria and Aranuka and conducts the sale of the produce through his own native agents. Communication is therefore more limited than in those islands where there are several agents of different firms.

Upon the island of Tarawa there is a site worthy of consideration viz. on the island of Bitio wrongly called Bititu in the Admiralty Charts.

Bitio is the small island on the reef at the south end of the atoll. There is anchorage outside the reef and in all ordinary weather communication can be had over the reef.

To the north of Bitio there is a passage perhaps the best in the Group when it is buoyed, and a vessel could come inside and anchor with ease.

I have not consulted the natives as to any site on this or any island but I have no doubt a site can be obtained anywhere and possibly if desired the whole of the island.

Tarawa has frequent communication with Abaiiau and Maiana by boat and canoe in moderate weather.

I would ask Your Excellency to select one of the islands and give instructions for the building of the Residency.

The house I would propose to Your Excellency as suitable for living quarters and offices is a building 45 feet by 20 feet of two stories with an eight foot verandah round the lower rooms and ten foot verandah round the upper floor.

Air at night is the chief difficulty in these hot latitudes and every trader in the Group who can afford it sleeps high up from the ground. In Tabetinen the traders have two storey native erections.

GILBERTS: H.Q. FOR GOVERNMENT (Contd)

Here they have European built houses. Doors and windows must be open at night.

Since I have been in the Protectorate I have slept with open doors and windows on account of the heat and I think that the Residency ought to be provided with upper rooms which will be secure from the intrusion of vindictive natives. That the natives have since my arrival showed themselves more than friendly to me is true but it is no less true that in these islands some care is requisite.

Spain	I have &c.	marks	449.00
Hawaii	C.R. Swayne		3.25
	British Resident.		
Netherlands	28 railroads		1.00
Prussia	2 the late		1.00
Austria	1 the late		50
Portugal			1.00
Greek	3 the late		1.00
United States			4.25
Chile			4.75
India	1 paper		30
French	48 papers		12.50
Italian	4 books		1.00

There were also drafts totaling \$251,000 and a balance of \$100,000 of English gold amounting to \$200,000.

COINAGE IN GILBERTS

RC to HC, of 26.1.95: some scribbled notes on a sheet attached to this letter show that among the first consignment of coin sent down from the Gilberts (the proceeds of the first taxation - native and traders) were the following:-

British coin (gold £2 silver 14/6)		\$13.62½
Mexican		\$133
German	196 marks	\$49.00
Spain		3.25
Hawaii		3.50
Netherlands	2½ guilders	1.00
Prussia	2 thalers	1.00
Austria	1 thaler	50
Peruvian		1.00
Greek	5 drachmas	1.00
United States		4.25
Chile		4.75
India	1 rupee	30
French	61 francs	12.25
Italian	5 lire	1.00

.....

There were also drafts totalling £631.12.6 and a separate bag of English gold amounting to £200.

.....

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[December 14.]

PACIFIC ISLANDS.

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 1.

820

No. 1.

Consul Roberts to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 259.)

Guatemala, November 19, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 47 of the 10th October, and inclosure, with reference to the Gilbert islanders employed in this country, and am communicating with Mr. Gleeson; meanwhile, I have the honour to make known to your Lordship the details already within my knowledge.

Last April Mr. Gleeson called on me, explaining that he had, some three years ago, come to this country with a number of Gilbert islanders who, together with himself, had signed contracts to work on the coffee plantation of a wealthy Guatemaland family.

Mr. Gleeson showed me the various contracts, which were all in proper form, and stipulated for the return of the islanders to their homes by the employers at the expiration of the term for which they were employed. At that time, Mr. Gleeson made no complaint to me of any injustice or ill-treatment on the part of the employers, who, he informed me, had so far acted up to the terms of the contract, but stated that he feared lest, at the expiration of the term of years, they would try to evade the obligation of returning the islanders to their homes. I informed Mr. Gleeson that if his suspicions proved correct, and the employers did not carry out this part of the contract, he had only then to inform me, and I would see that the islanders obtained their full rights. At that time, Mr. Gleeson left all the contracts (each labourer having a separate one) with me for safe custody, but about six weeks ago he again called to take the contracts away; on this second occasion he made no complaint to me, and I again assured him of the full protection of this Legation in the event of any attempt at breach of contract on the part of the employers. Since this time I have neither seen nor heard anything more of Mr. Gleeson and the Gilbert islanders. Mr. Gleeson informed me of there having been great mortality among the people, but did not ascribe this as due in any way to want of care on the part of the employers.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

J. FREDERICK ROBERTS.

GILBERT AND ELLICE PROTECTORATE STAFF

Additional European Officer at salary not exceeding £200 to be Clerk, Registrar and Chief of Police, approved so soon as HC of opinion that funds of Prot. admit. SS to Asst HC No.37 of 17.10.95.

.....

.....

SWAYNE

HC to SS, No.60 of 19.12.95: "As Mr Swayne's connection with the Gilbert and Ellice Groups has now closed, I desire to respectfully record my high appreciation of the value of the services he has rendered. ~~The~~ His administration has been a successful one, notwithstanding the many difficulties to be encountered. The Protectorates have been brought into a position to be self supporting; the various island governments are now really exerting themselves; and encouraged by the firmness displayed by Mr Swayne they are endeavouring, with some success, to establish law and order. I humbly ask permission to say that I think if Her Majesty's Government were to express their thanks to Mr Swayne, the compliment would be well deserved."

.....

GILBERT AND ELLICE AFFAIRS * 1896:

HC to SS, No:8 of 21.2.96: Surplus balance for Gilberts, after erecting Betio station, £503.7.4. Surplus necessary as draughts liable.

Wightman Bros. retiring from Group; and some of the vessels trading have not done so successfully.

Campbell going to investigate "the suitability of a gentleman living at Tarawa, who speaks the language and who ~~is believed~~ it is believed is otherwise qualified." If nbg officer will be sent as his Asst from Fiji.

.....

Missionary Herald, June 1897. ✓

.....

The British Commissioner arrived in January of last year and resides at Tarawa. He first proposed that the island should be divided between the Protestants and Catholics. But Mr Walkup declined to consider the proposal in as much as our Mission has occupied every island and Christians are living in nearly every village. The Commissioner was at first disposed to regard leniently the dancing among the natives, but when he came to understand what was involved in the night revels, he put a stop to this dancing on several of the islands.

Mr Walkup writes that at Maiana, when the Commissioner remained all the month of August, here were turned ^(?) matters generally. He ordered the Government to repair all the four church buildings, used also as school buildings, and all the youths under seventeen to be in school and all the males over seventeen to work on public improvements.

DANCING, EVILS OF

1896

Missionary Herald, June 1896, p.241. ✓

.....

It will be remembered that in Mr Walkup's report of last year, he spoke of the fact that the British Commissioner of the Group disapproved of the dancing customs of the heathen~~s~~ populations. Yet he was so unaware of the evil ^{lu} influences of these customs, that he had permitted their practice on special festivals, particularly on the Queen of England's birthday.

The results upon Christian work have been distressing. Mr Walkup says "These heathen games, like baseball, require long practice. The permission to have them on holidays creates the desire for all the old nights, games and nudeness. It is the one story from nearly all the islands, but the hope is expressed that as the present Commissioner is soon to give place to another, the new man will make new laws which are so evidently needed and with which a speedy change for the better will be manifest."

At Makin, which was a bright spot last year, congregation fell from 150 to 75 after a series of these heathen games. The work however is reviving somewhat and on January 1st there was a congregation of 100 in a decorated Church.

At Butaritari the King has done his best to keep out these games, but the Commissioner opened the door to these people on holidays. The result is that where so many of the natives have been well dressed for years, the majority now have long hair and are almost naked.

.....

P.242. In conclusion Mr Walkup says: "In my fifteen years in the Group, I have never seen nor heard of the prevalence of so much dancing or heathen games or of such a depraved character. In former times the wives were required to remain in their houses, but now they enter into these sinful games. We shall put in an earnest plea to the new Commissioner to stop the dancing and other harmful games.

Of another beachcomber cum trader on Abaiang see Campbell to Berkeley, 3.5.97
- W.P.H.C. - Inward Correspondence, General, no.266 of 1897.

Campbell says: "I understand that when returning from a vessel or from
visiting another trader he is invariably found on the road oblivious of
the changed condition of things since the formation of the Protectorate or
of a lowered copra market with his head pillowed on an empty gin-bottle.
It would be of very great benefit if men of this character were removed
from the Group."

From footnote 83 in the last chapter of Scarr's thesis.

.....

KRAMER, Augustin

1906

Hawaii, Ostmikronesien und Samoa. Stuttgart;
verlag von Strecker & Scurbder. 585pp.

translation Pp. 285 - 303.

Apamama.

1898 it was New Years Eve when we passed the 'Gleicher', a still breeze had started from the north - east. First we tried to farewell the old year with a glass of mulled wine, but the movements of the boat became so unpleasant that I preferred to exchange the crowded mass for some fresh air. Again I had to make the unpleasant discovery that it tastes better up than down and was happy when Apamama was sighted on time the next morning, the 'Neptun' sailed by quietly on the islands leeward side. Here there really was a leeward side. The reef is about 200 metres wide, it is dry at low tide, has several small detrital plains and at the entrance of the lagoon lies a fair sized isle called Pik (the place on the map that is marked Entrance island).

And a good New Years feast was given by Father Neptune to his namesake when big rat bonitos bit the lines hung out during the peaceful sailing. The passage near the island Pik is pretty and wide and well demarkated on both sides but as the wind blew into it, the boat had to go over stay every moment in order to get into the spacious lagoon. It too had numerous stones, but there was enough room left to traverse it safely and comfortably. In contrast to the three larger southern atolls Apamama is not very silted and has almost always a depth of 15 - 30 metres.

286 This was pleasantly felt, as we were therefore not so far from the land and did not have to walk 2 - 3 km over the dry sand at low

At 9.30 am already, we cast anchor in front of the King's residence Binoinano, and it was less than an hour before the ruler of Apamama. King Tentebauru, this means Mr Paul, came aboard with his minister Iingoa and the Queen Neikandak. They had coffee with us and watched me as I coloured and improved the drawings of the southern islands. They were particularly interested by Ratzel's 'Ethnology' and discussed the pictures with great zeal. The late master would not have dreamed of the great success of his work. The coffee party went on for so long that I came ashore only at 4 pm. I had taken everything with me in order to follow the invitation of the King to live ashore during the stay of the 'Neptun' in the lagoon; my breakfast basket, my mosquito net, my gun, a few tins of food and some articles for exchange. Although the natives seemed friendly and have been so for some time, as can be seen by Stevenson's masterly description of his stay with Tembinoka in his book 'In the Southseas', even so I had an uneasy feeling when the boat left and I was alone with the natives. I had been with the much more savage Tapituens and in many other places guest of the natives, but I always had been near some white soul. Here I was the only white among completely strange people, whose language I understood only incompletely, the King had not given permission to any white trader to start a store on his island, he wished to keep the business to himself and sold copra through his ministers directly to the captains of the boats. The father of the present King Tembinoka had done this and the son saw no reason to change it. Although the old king had had some

287 unfortunate experience with it. He had bought a boat on the proceeds of his rich copra earnings in Sydney in order to bring his products directly to the world market. But either the ship was wrecked or one of the cunning captains disappeared with it, at any rate he lost it. It was a usurper family, these Tembinokas, as the grandfather of the present King, Tembidike had seized power. After Tembinokas death in 1890 his brother ruled for 18 months until the ten year old King took over the reign.

Stevenson reports many interesting things about the history of the kings.

When I came to the large house that stands in the centre of the village common, the big New Years dance was held. I saw the relics of the old Tembinoka hanging from the ceiling, his throne, decorated with ovula shells (te bau) and on a post his grass skirt, his body mat, his rock for state occasions his trousers. In the centre of the floor underneath the hanging throne lay the chiefs. On the one end of the room was a group of dancing men and on the other end a large crowd of women who danced in turn together and apart, as on Nonuti, and sang. They turned the upper body backwards and forwards from the hips and gesticulated with the arms and when the song came to an end they finished it always with an ia, ia, ue, ia, ue.

When I had watched for an hour I took myself to the weather side of the island in order to acquaint myself with it.

I now want to explain what I saw on that and the following evening with the help of the sketch fig. 21. Binoinane lies

at the end of the island or an atoll circle, and like most villages at the sand beach of the lagoon. The small opening between Binoinano and the next island had been filled with earth by the earlier King Tembinoka in order to extend the land. To the same purpose stonewalls (te bono) had been erected on the narrowest part of the passage to aid the silting and filling of mud of the still open pools. The stone wall on the lagoon side served also as a bridge for the path that goes past Binoinano. This farsightedness of Tembinoka will come as no surprise after the facts already mentioned. He was a very practical person, who did not leave the trade to the whites but seized it for himself and not only the copra trade but also the selling or distribution of small goods which he received from the copra captains to his subjects. A large stone house with a stone-wharf on the northern end of the village and a copra shed nearby (fig 22. left) are still witnesses to his work which has been passed on to his son. The houses on the beach of the lagoon, the living and sleeping quarters of the King, his minister Tingoa, who gave himself that title, the Queen Weikandak, Benuiakei and Tamaid had all been built on high posts, much to my surprise (see fig, 22). But they were not stilt dwellings in the proper sense, as they stood on dry land; they only served to provide sleeping in fresh air, because one thinks here of sleeping on the ground, so popular in Samoa, as unhealthy. One of the houses was cantilevered from a stonewharf towards the sea so that it could get most of the cooling nightwinds. On the landside of the beach houses is a fishpool and also a few water-

holes in which the natives bathe frequently and further south the big meeting house, the maniaba, in German 'house of the island', which has already been mentioned. Inland from this lay the island road which partitioned the village complex from the plantations, as large tarogroups and coconut plantations were situated towards the seaside.

When I had crossed the narrow island on the path I came suddenly to a bay which I called sportsnarbour on the sketch. Here the natives have sailing contests in boats built specially for this purpose, the body of these boats is hardly larger than a foot (see Bild 42). In our new modelboat sailing clubs think that this is a modern sport they are making a very big mistake. The extraordinary thing about these Gilbertese toyboats is the small body (tedoa) in comparison with the long outrigger (giaro) which is completely out of proportion and the small float (te rama) which is similar in size to the body. As a very big sail (te ie), made from thin split pandanus leaves gives the boat a very high speed and therefore a strong pressure on the sail threatens to pull the float out of the water, to prevent this, small pointed sticks (daurama) are put on the end of the outrigger posts above the float and on to the sticks small egg sized coconuts are spiked (tenemoimoi) as ballast. The mast (aniang) is held upright by stays and shrouds on the bowsprit and on the outrigger. How skillfully made the vehicle is, how elegant its small body of pandanus leaves and planks and ribs of thin coconut leaves as ribs of the boat has to bring forth true admiration from any sailing man. It is not only a game, it is a real sport undertaken by the chiefs

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of Apamama and also those from Maiana and Tarava. There are people who built these specially and who, just like our yacht-builders think constantly of ways and means to improve the speed of the boats. Whole schools are formed, the pupils imbibed with their particular method so that they do not listen to others any more. When the Apamama week starts, all the owners of the boats come to the outer beach on the sports harbour and when the tide comes in and reaches just above the men's knees then the starters go to one end of the bay and on a given sign put their prepared and tackled boats into the water to let them sail towards the inner harbour where other people stand at about 100 m distance to catch the racers. This must be a difficult undertaking as with the low water resistance and the very large sail the boats are supposed to fly along like arrows. Unfortunately there were no races during my stay and I must be satisfied with relating the facts the natives told me. The sport is played particularly passionately on Maiana and Tarava. The traders told me that first village plays against village then island against island for weeks, month even years. Whole islands have been eaten bare because nobody looked after the plantation.

When I saw the reef outside the sports harbour I found a large arrow shaped stone trap with two openings at the beginning of the arrow point on the short. This thing called te ma, which is used all over Oceania, serves to catch fish from the sea at low tide so that the fishes cannot be washed away. This trap works on its own; day and night, and if many fishes have been caught they are put into the village pond, especially the sea perch, te guau,

(the Samoan gataala, the white and yellow spotted serranus albofuscus Bleek) and the seaasn[?] (Aschen), the mugil types which are good for reeding. but in many fish appear in the lagoon the natives start a big drive to get them into the trap, similar to the atule catch on manu'a that I will describe below. how large these stone traps are is evident from bild 43, they almost take in the whole width of the 200m long reef. On the outer reef I saw a fisherman
293 who caught hermit crabs and smashed them with their shells and threw them at intervals into the sea, at the same moment he threw in his hook baited with crabtail and thus caught fish all the time. Amongst these was the just mentioned seranus kind and a few others that he called te pawe and te bugebug.

finally I saw some old women by the lagoon looking over stones, as they were of an honourable age I did not think it dangerous to ask them their intentions. they showed me worms that they pulled out of the corals and when I asked what they were used for they crumpled them in their hands and put them under my nose saying : e boierar. it smelled strongly of iodine. they needed the worms for the coming dance to rub themselves with it and to smell pleasant. Every mite has its scent: (one man's meat is another man's poison). *(not quite, but can't think of anything better!)*
294 If there were many extraordinary things to see here, no less remarkable than the place were its people. When I arrived in Binoinano I felt as if I had come from the Gilbert Islands to another archiple. While the population of the southern island has a more Polynesian nose, flat between the eyes and a hollow nose ridge, broad at the base and the nostrils rounded, in Apamama

it was high ridged on three quarters of the natives. The eyes seemed close together and the saddle between them up to 1 cm high, the saddle of the nose bent and the base comparatively small, in short 'eaglenoses'. The lips were slightly protruding but not very broad and of a pretty shape, chin and forehead slightly receding. Several old men, whom I saw at the dance in ~~the~~ ^{the} maniaba had, under their white flowing hair, the appearance of North American Indians. The women and girls too reminded me vividly of the Auracanianians that I had seen a few months earlier in Chile.

On the day after my arrival I took myself to the maniaba. Here one was just extending the new years dance for another day. Again I found the men around the ~~northern~~ southern pillar and the women around the northern one. Everything here was still genuine and no European cloth could be seen on the natives. The men wore a necklace, and pandanus rolls in their ears and as a dress the differently patterned mats around the hips to the knees fastened with a hair rope. The women wore grass skirts and immediately above a double belt made of coconut pieces, dyed darkly, about the size of a two cent piece. These were partly covered with pandanus leaves, a custom in Apamama called benugom. The feast started with women and men alternatively singing the verses of a song. While the women stood still the men threw themselves on the floor at the end of each verse. Several songs were sung in such a way that I did not understand them without an interpreter, thus I was able only to note down the last two verses.

296 King Paul joined willingly into all the games and dances of the

men, although not in the crowd but on the left side a few steps away. His movements were rather normal and slow and the participation seemed to be a duty rather than a pleasure to him. Amongst the women too ~~did~~ I ^{and} see a girl, younger and more graceful and lighter in colour than the others, she sat on the side without joining in and only did so after repeated requests as if to please the people who had asked her. One noticed that she was concerned that she might lower herself by doing too much. I surmised that she must be somebody special and to my satisfaction I heard that she was the sister of the King, Kabuibuiea. I do not know if it was interest in the dainty creature or scientific hunger that made me go forward, at any rate I had gone too far in front of the central row of pillars and had to be told to return to the onlookers. The song that followed was extraordinary to a high degree and was started by the wives of the king, it was called the dragon-fly dance. A dragon fly comes, it settles on the white hand and the white foot. These words followed: white hand, white foot, here buzzes the dragon-fly and settles down.

Is the picture not delightful? The white hand points to the light skin of the upper class, as sina means white and is often a name for a chief's daughter in Samoa, who appears to be shining as the moon 'masina'.

After this song came a play by the men with the women called te daga gabo. The women sang in high shrill tones: Come here, come here, pull me by my hair, pull me by the arm. So ~~the~~ two men ran towards the women and pulled one across, nearly all had their turn, only Kabuibuiea was left out, she was too noble for this.

but she had a band around her ankle, could it have been a disease or love charm?

When this game had finished the women began theirs 'te daubere', the name for the fly-swatter, started. This is really a children's game, namely the children try to attract the flies with sweets in order to kill them with the swatter of coconut leaf ribs. Thus too the women went across to the men with their swatters, selected one men with it and took him to the other side. I heard the gathered
299 men called tunuma and one of the gathering women tunuma te buibueiu and the other tunuma te mata. (In Samoa the sheath for the tattoo-hooks is called tunuma).

When the game had finished a few of the natives came to me to ask for medical aid, as one of the men had broken his arm in a fight, I told the people to give a cold compress for a while and promised to come when I had seen the end of the game. But when I arrived later at the house of the man at the other end of the village I was told that the man had left and had treated himself. The dance lasted until 3 pm. For a fitting end to the feast the King distributed four boxes of stick tobacco which had been given to him as part of the payment for copra by Captain Kessler. I waited outside the house for the end of the dance as I wanted to take some photographs of the old men, but these were not prepared to let me do that. I was luckier with King Paul whom I asked to introduce me to Princess Kabuibuiea and give me permission to take a picture of himself and his sister. He kindly agreed and even brought his younger sister Ikaboemen along (see Plate 13). I was also fortunate to get the dancing group that performed the standing dance. Picture 47 shows a

snap of them.

When the evening came near I took myself to ^{my} night quarters at the end of the village, the ware-house of the King. It was a square, covered wooden house with a high roof of leaves, under its overhang ran a small veranda in front and around the sides. I hung my mosquitonet in the northern blind corner and put a few of the traded mats on to the floor. I camped here and slept alone, not disturbed by anybody because the storehouse of the king was taboo for the natives. After a frugal meal I walked a little in the cool of the evening breeze into the village and visited King Paul. He lay on his mat on the floor in front of his sleeping house and I set down with him and tried as well as I could to chat with him. For amusement I played the mouth organ and as he seemed to enjoy it I gave it to him to put him into a good frame of mind. Because apart from the hospitality and protection he gave me I had

300 my eyes on two beautiful shark teeth spears.

I had left my attack for the following ~~morning~~ last evening. On this evening I excused myself to return to my lonely abode. When I lay there all alone looking at the starlit lagoon with the sound of the island music in my ears I did get some frightening thoughts. The natives are usually peaceful but when they are intoxicated with palm wine after the feast they, like all drunks are easily aroused and in the afternoon I had angered a young man when I wanted to put his wife in front of the camera. The Gilbert people are good sports but as far as their women are concerned they have no sense of humour. The copra traders in the islands always look their doors at the time of feasts and here I was alone outside on the

beach without any protection. What was the point of worrying! The loaded gun at my side, I settled into half sleep. An hour might have passed when suddenly I heard the sound of clinking pebbles. I jumped up and listened. Could it have been a dog? Now I heard steps very closely, there must be several persons. With the gun in my hand I confronted them, in the darkness I distinguished two men and a woman, as their intentions seemed friendly I lit a candle and lo behold it was the King with one of his four wives and his minister. I welcomed them and after polite exchanges asked them their wishes. I discovered then that the kind man had felt sorry for me because I had to sleep in so much isolation and that therefore he had brought me a companion. Happily he had not chosen the most beautiful of his wives and I had no difficulty in withstanding the temptation. I thanked him sincerely and with tender consideration to the kind woman I explained that I had a wife at home and with us it was strictly forbidden to sleep alone with other women under the same roof. This white *lie* 302 was readily accepted and the three departed with light hearts, apparently conscious of the fact that they had done their best for the well being of their guest. The apparent contradiction between this action and the otherwise so easily aroused jealousy is explained if one considers that ~~it is~~ to sin with permission is different from sinning without. More of this later.

By my refusal I seemed to have impressed my noble host, as on the following day he not only gave me the two spears on my request, but at the farewell also asked if I would stay with him or return as he wished to give me his sister Kabuibuiea for a wife. I told him that I would consider his kind offer.

The last day did not bring anything new, I studied and collected. The tattooing of the men was similar to that of other islands. I only saw something new on an older bearded man who showed a few vertical fishes on blue background on his forehead and his cheeks, just like those found in the western Carolines and which remind of the diamond shapes plaited with hair on armour in stylized form (???). *I am not quite sure if this is right. literal translation only.* The women had little tattooing and at the most had one or two long lines on the inside of the arms as is usual of the northern Gilbert and Marshall Islands.

Finally, just one example of King Paul's despotism. He had given me permission to shoot his wild chickens behind the plantations at the end of the village. As there were no tame chicken and I had a longing for one in the pot, soon I returned from the outer beach with a few 'beach runners' (Strandläufer) and (Brachvögel) and a chicken, when I met Tentebauru at my dwelling, he had just come to visit me. But it was not the bag that he admired, but the gun that made such a miracle possible. He wanted to see how it was loaded and when the weapon was ready for use he wished to shoot ~~at~~ something. But nothing suitable could be seen on the inner beach. Disappointed he pointed the gun at a little child that came along the path. I do not know if he would have shot at it, I just raised the barrel and took the gun gently from him. I stayed ashore the last night and at 7.30 am Capt. Kessler took me aboard to continue the journey after three days on Apamama, the most beautiful and unique that I experienced in the Gilbert Islands.

Missionary Herald, August 1898. ✓

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In almost all the islands of the Gilbert Group, the Roman Catholic missionaries have encroached upon the work of our missionaries.

The British Commissioner has established Government schools on many islands in which reading, writing and arithmetic are taught but there is connected with them no worship, not even a song.

On Tabiteuea, Mr Walkup says "In these Government schools all these children attend from 9 till 12 o'clock. Of the fifteen teachers selected only two were Catholic natives, the 13 Protestant teachers have morning and evening prayers and afternoon sessions with singing and teaching of the catechism. Many of the scholars are leaving the Catholics and buying Bibles."

Missionary Herald, July 1899. ✓

.....

Of Abemama Mr Walkup writes "Mr G.H. Murdoch was left there in October as Government Agent. He has resided for about twenty years in the Gilbert Islands and he understands well the reputation of Abemama from long before Robert Louis Stevenson's heathen contract with King Binoka.

A code of new laws has been published especially for the Abemama people. One law is that the word 'slave', the title of the people used by the Chiefs' party, must not be used as there are no slaves under the English flag. The people can be tillers of the Chiefs' land and they have a share now of all the coconuts and the Chief must not demand any prepared food from them as herebefore. These laws have brought great relief to our Christian people. Their earnest Deacon, Isaiah, says that this which has come to pass is only what I have been preaching. Give glory unto the Lord and declare His Praise in the Islands. By these rules all children must attend school, for the first absence a fine is imposed, for the second absence the parent or guardian goes to jail for a week. Besides the two catechists schools, Mr Murdoch has selected a Christian for a Government teacher.

The first jail is being built, a heavy stocade to be the penitentiary for three or four islands.

Persons wishing to marry must be of age and have the permission of the King or magistrate to do so."

On Tarawa the rule of the Resident Commissioner necessitates the keeping of the natives at work. After re-building public buildings, they have had to rebuild their own dwellings, raising them two or three feet from the ground. The Resident insists that all children living near schools attend either Protestant or Catholic schools, but they attend empty-handed, having no books. And in villages where no schools have been started, he makes no provision for Government schools as on some other islands.

Peter Corris, Introduction to Wawn The South Sea Islanders and the Queensland Labour Trade.

June

'... in 1898 he [Wawn] entered the island trade again by taking command of the 279 ton barque Loongana at Balmain, Sydney Harbour. The Loongana, owned by the only firm of Chinese shipowners in Australia, the On Chong Company, plied between Sydney and the Gilbert Islands. Wawn's first voyage in her constituted his final contact with the Queensland labour trade, for, in addition to mail and other cargo (mostly timber), the Loongana took back to the islands 65 Gilbertese who had worked in Queensland as indentured labourers. One of Queensland's most experienced ~~XX~~ government agents, Aubrey C. Cecil, supervised the repatriation of the islanders and, for once, Wawn did not fall out with the colony's officer.⁴⁷

Nevertheless Wawn did experience his usual difficulties - ill-health and conflicts with his crew and trading associates. In December 1898, on the first voyage, he found the mate drunk and quarrelsome

The Loongana returned to Sydney on 20 April 1899 after a very rough passage with a cargo of 303 tons of copra and 2226 pounds of shark fins: Wawn reported 'native affairs quiet'.⁴⁹ He returned from his second voyage in the Loongana to the Gilberts on 30 August 1899 with a cargo of 205 tons of copra which was sold to Lever Brothers' 'Sunlight' soap works at Balmain.⁵⁰

47 - Sydney Morning Herald 21 April 1899. Private Logs, Loongana, 21 June 1898. The first Gilbert Islanders to be recruited for Queensland were those brought by the May in 1895. At first high hopes were held for them and it was thought that the Gilbertese might prove to be a useful supplementary recruiting ground to the Solomons. But, like Polynesians from the outlying Solomon Islands, the Gilbertese were ~~XX~~ unable to maintain good health under the work and the climate, and many of them returned to their homes without serving their full terms. The Gilbertese on the Loongana had worked in the Ingham and Rockhampton districts and were returned in this unusual way because Queensland shipowners would not repatriate them 'except upon very exorbitant terms'. The government's claim that the islanders 'were returned under precisely the same conditions as exist on board vessels sailing out of Queensland ports under the Pacific Islander's Act', is born out by Wawn's log. De Vaux to Immigration Agent 27 February 1896, Queensland, Colonial Secretary's Office, Inwards Correspondence 13974/1895; Votes and Proceedings of the of the Queensland Legislative Assembly 1899:1296.

49 - Sydney Morning Herald 21 April 1899; Sydney Daily Telegraph 21 April 1899. Private Logs, Loongana, 31.12.1898, 9.1.1899 (Mitchell Library, Sydney).

50 - Private Logs, 4, 11, May, 7 Sept. 1899; Sydney Morning Herald ~~XX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ 31 August 1899.

GILBERT ISLANDS

(General)

1900 -

TELFER CAMPBELL

1907

Letter from W. Telfer Campbell, Resident Commissioner, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Protectorate, to Atlee Hunt, Australia.

.....

52/1814

Report sent 20.2.7.

Hill View, Turramurra,
10th February, 1907.

Dear Atlee Hunt,

Many thanks for your note and for promising to fix up matters connected with giving Murdock's residence in the Commonwealth.

The above is my Sydney address. They were in error in giving it as care of On Chong and Company. I agree that the latter does not sound very well, but after all as a permanent address it would be preferable to the Gilbert Group where the "yellow peril" is by no means as bad as the "low white peril".

I regret there is no likelihood of our meeting before your departure for England. I hope you will have an enjoyable visit. When you meet the C.O. officials do not forget should an opportunity occur to mention me as an authority on the W. Pacific and hint that as I know a d - d side to [sic.] much about it a change would be desirable for me to some other sphere in the interests of the Empire. Should the G. G. be appointed High Commr. I hope H.E. and the Federal Parliament will recognize that the duties of the office cannot be carried out unless H.E. spends six months, not less, every year in ~~XXXXXX~~ visiting the various Groups of the Western Pacific. The dual appointments of H.C. & Govr. of Fiji are farcical. There is quite enough work in both places, Fiji and the W. Pacific, to keep a hardworking & intelligent chief going in each.

The Gilberts have prospered as far as possible under existing conditions. British trade is not progressing neither does it deserve to do so, since the methods of its emisaries are antedeluvian. The Germans are getting more than their share of the trade they study the market and endeavour to satisfy their natives. British firms on the other hand confine themselves to wasting time in using rotten ships and

introducing damaged goods mostly salvaged stock from Sydney firms.

May I ask you for another copy of your report on New Guinea? The copy you were good to give me last year was retained by Sir Everard in Thurn on my showing it to him. He expressed great appreciation of it. I should also like a copy of the recent report, made by the Commissioners ~~XXXX~~ appointed last year to visit New Guinea, should it be published. I have seen a summary in a newspaper recently. Some of the recommendations do not surprise me. The necessity for them was obvious on my first going to New Guinea seventeen years ago. I am sorry for individual officials in New Guinea. The system is really responsible for the wheels not ~~running~~ running smoothly. The system includes "temporary and provisional appointments" made to-day as they were in my time.

Bon voyage and au revoir,

Yours very truly

W. Telfer Campbell.

From the Atlee Hunt Papers in the National Library, Canberra.

.....

Potts, T.C.T.

1900

In 1900 Campbell confined Lodge, a weak, puling creature, but capable of pursuing an obsession, and who lived on the prostitution of his daughter, to Betio as an idle and undesirable person. Lodge enlisted the aid of Potts, an embittered former official dismissed by Campbell, who conducted a campaign in the C.O. and Parliament for several years - Campbell to Berkeley, no.20 of 1899; C.O. to O'Brien, 7.9.1900 and 7.11.1900, with encs - W.P.H.C. Despatches from S.O.S.; C.O. to Allardyce, 1.1.1902, with enc., ibid; Im Thurn to Johnson, 28.1.1907 (private) - C.O. 225/80.

Above from Scarr thesis.

.....

Ocean Island - Phosphate

Reynolds' Phosphate 23 11 1906
Phosphate

Pacific Phosphate Companies is bond steamer, etc, who has used
Reynolds' Newspaper Nov 26, 1906
in Guano Phosphate, held by Government of England
High Commission of the Western Pacific

It would be interesting to learn how it comes about that in the year 1900 the then Government granted to the Pacific Islands Company - a trading firm established in the Gilbert and Marshall groups of islands - a Crown lease of ninety-nine years of the island of Paaropa (Ocean Island), which was rich in guano phosphates. The lease is dated January 1, 1901. Rent, fifty pounds per annum for the first five years, afterwards a royalty of sixpence per ton on the quantity of guano exported. This latter stipulation comes into operation in the present year. Having had access to a Report of the exports from the island from June 30, 1902, to December 31, 1904, we find that they were 139,472 tons, on which the company is said to have made a net profit of £85,605, between six and seven hundred times the amount of the rent (£125) for the two years and a half. The estimated export for this year is 160,000 tons. There were, it is calculated, at the time the lease was granted to the company, over twelve million tons of guano phosphates on the island. The permitting of this valuable asset to be parted with for so low a sum has been no trivial matter to the native inhabitants of the Gilberts. Had an adequate rental been demanded, it would have paid the expenses of Government, and the natives would have been saved from the heavy tax paid out of their food supply. A list of the shareholders in this concern would be interesting. The chairman of the Pacific Islands and

Beru
Ocean Island - Phosphate

Reynolds' report ¹⁹⁰⁸ 26.11.06, contd.

Alefaio's Report to Newell regarding the walkout of students in Rongorongo, Beru, 28 July, 1908.

194 Pacific Phosphate Companies is Lord Stansmore, who, when he was the hopes of the Gilberts, young men will be shattered. We have had many discussions regarding this, and all agreed that Sir Arthur Gordon, held the position of Governor of Fiji and High Commissioner of the Western Pacific. "then what is the purpose of their school in the future?"

2. There is a lot of criticism amongst the people. If this continues, it is probable many will leave the campus.

3. Another reason for criticism is the daily heavy manual labour owing to Goward's ambitious plans to achieve a name for himself. He tends to show off the campus to officers from ships as well as traders from overseas. These people he has invited. As a result, school work has suffered. We have discussed this situation on many occasions. We concluded that our strength has been misused. We are being used to build new houses, destroy old ones and build replacements according to the wishes of our master. But when we think of the purpose of why we came here, which is to attain knowledge through education, we have achieved nothing. None of us has improved through lack of new knowledge.

4. From January 1906, we have counted that not over 40 sessions of school work (two sessions a day) have been held. We have had no examinations, in spite of them being announced. No reason was given. Consequently, much criticism has occurred amongst the pupils. Time is spent on manual work from Sunday to Friday, and thus, many have left. They have sent word of explanation: 'We are tired of Mr Goward's cruelty towards us!' There is even word that 'Mr Goward is a Pharisee, not a Pastor'.

5. July 1907. Further debate on the £1 school fee paid after 5 years. The people claimed that Mr Goward had previously told them that the £1 was only payable for the first 4 years. The

Alefaio's Report to Newell regarding the walkout of students in Rongorongo, Beru, 28 July, 1908.

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1. If we continue to observe Goward's programme of 'service', the hopes of the Gilberts' young men will be shattered. We have held many discussions regarding this, and all agreed that if Goward's behaviour and plans continue then what is the purpose of their school in the future?
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5. July 1907. Further debate on the £1 school fee paid after 5 years. The people claimed that Mr Goward had previously told them that the £1 was only payable for the first 4 years. The

problem now is, many of the 4 year students have walked out. To this Mr Goward replied: 'I have been asking the elders for a solution, but no reply. I will ask again concerning the 6 and 7 year in school'.

6. The pupils further asked Mr Goward as to the number of years a person has to spend in school before he can become a pastor. Mr Goward replied: 'First, he must stay in the school, then be appointed to a village, then come back to school, all the time paying the £1 school fee. After this he will be appointed to a village again. Only after he serves the Church for 8 years could he then become a pastor. To this the school answered:

395 'We are now aware that there is really no limit to our school days. Our years spent in school are a waste of time, for we do not learn anything - there are no classes, so the system is a trick to keep us for manual work! The school's criticism was laid down in a letter addressed to Goward. Here were the main points:

- (a) We are certain you are a Pharisee, not a pastor. The things you have done to us are many.
- (b) The burning of the school's plantation. Took place on a day when the students were engaged in heavy manual work. Mr Goward visited the work and for some reasons beyond our understanding, he immediately told off some students who had just returned from dumping rubbish near the beach. The students were quite upset at Mr Goward's lack of sensitivity, and in protest, turned around and burned the plantation they worked so hard to plant.
- (c) Mr Goward struck the head of one student and fined him £5.
- (d) Mr Goward announced that prizes will be awarded to those who deserve them after the July 1907 exam. These will be brought from Samoa by the 'J.W.'. But after the exam, no

Kiribati student received any prizes. The only prize being given to a Samoan woman, the sister of the wife of Jupeli. The students now believe that Mr Goward only gives prizes to his special friends.

(e) Incident at a church meeting: Two Sundays before Communion Sunday, Mr Goward instructed me to call a meeting of the Church to weave mats for the thatching of houses. This work would be done on the morning prior to the afternoon service which was to be held at 2.30 p.m. All of us and the people were present. When the time of the afternoon service approached, I asked Mr Goward for further instructions to which he replied: 'Wait till they have completed all the weaving, cancel the service'. The people in turn enquired as to the service as it was after 3 p.m. They began to mock Mr Goward. I again asked Mr Goward, but he said 'If the weaving has finished, tell the people to go home, there will be no church meeting'. This I relayed to the people who felt angry and said 'It is true, he is a lying pastor'. The effects of Mr Goward's behaviour on the people were apparent during the following Sunday services; very few turned up.

(f) Request for Friday to be a day off so students could go fishing for food was turned down. The students regarded such a refusal as 'cruelty' in view of Mr Goward's tendency to disregard the hardship student families were experiencing at times. For instance he would request a mat or basket to be woven by a student's wife although her child may be sick.

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Yet, despite these tensions, work continued, until Mr Goward and the students' wives had a disagreement. This was over the weaving of mats for Pastor Jupeli's house and his own. Mr Goward asked me to go and speak to the wives. This I did. I spoke to Sipaia to ascertain the cause and she said 'Mr Goward

has told the women that if they do not finish the mats quickly, all of them will be taken back (to Samoa) when the 'J.W.' arrives'. I tried to console and reassure them that perhaps the missionary did not really mean what he said. But all were emphatic that Mr Goward had sacked them. The husbands took up this new incident to justify perhaps their leaving the school. 'Not much point for us to stay if the missionary has told our wives that the 'J.W.' will take them.' Later, Sipaia informed me that some of the students had packed their belongings. I in turn informed Mr Goward later that evening and he merely replied 'It is up to them, if they want to leave - go'.

From: Nokise, Uili F., 'The Role of London Missionary Society Samoan Missionaries in the Evangelisation of the South West Pacific, 1839-1930'. ANU Ph.D. thesis, 1983. Pp.394-396.

G.M. Murdoch to Cogswell, Ag. R.C., Abemama, 4.9.1909.

On the death of Binoka his younger brother Timon became Uea, and on his death his son Paul, who had been nominated by Binoka.

Tem Baiteke had 4 children: Tem Binoka; Nei Tea; Nei Takuaua; and Timon.

Nei Tea had issue: Nei Takai; Nei Ruta; Ten Namoriki (known as Ten Tekenaiti); and Hiram Teeko (an albino).

Timon had Paul and 2 daughters.

Before the birth of Paul it was assumed that Nei Ruta or Ten Namoriki would be Uea; but Namoriki never claimed the Ueaship and became the Chief Kaubure.

The money obtained from the sale of copra from the Kuria lands was originally borrowed by Binoka to pay for the schooner Coronet, bought from Henderson and Macfarlane in 1878 or thereabouts.

Up to 1898 the Kuria people were slaves and got nothing, or next to nothing, from the sale of the produce of the Kuria lands, but from 1898 they were awarded one half of the proceeds.

Tem Paul had 242 lands out of the 1,143 on Kuria.

Murdoch advised against the reversal of Telfer Campbell's decision, which he claimed to have been accepted as just.

.....

Mahaffy to H.C., Ocean Island, 2.4.1909.

Binoka bequeathed his estate and the title of Uea to Tem Paul, who at his death was 9 years old.

This decision was accepted by the people and Paul was treated with respect and affection, though petted and spoiled during his long minority. He was harmless, inoffensive, but somewhat listless.

When Kuria was conquered in Binoka's reign Mokore was the Uea of Kuria.

Baiteke was the actual leader of the Abemama people in the war, while Binoka himself stayed on Abemama.

Mokore was killed; and the few Kurians who remained were treated as slaves without any claim to their former lands.

Abemamans took over the lands, but later passed them over to the Uea so that he could pay for the steamer Coronet.

Some Nonouti people were also brought over as slaves after the war there, in order that they should work the lands with the remnant of the Kuria people.

Binoka paid his servants from the produce of the lands.

On Binoka's death Ten Tebok (a slave of Binoka's) continued to look after Kuria in Paul's interests, and sold all the produce of the lands to visiting trading vessels.

Under Campbell's settlement Abemamans (about 80) got back their lands, while Paul kept Binoka's private lands and the Kuria people got a share of the copra as their pay.

.....

Murdoch to R.C., Abemama, 12.5.1910.

Report of meeting of Kuria landowners on 11.5.1910.

Prior to the war of TEMOKORO many Abemamans held land on Kuria. The war of Temokoro was won by the Abemamans, who took the land of the defeated Kurians.

After the war of TEUEANTATAUA he (Note; who was he?) was defeated and his personal lands were taken by Baiteke and his relatives.

The produce of the lands was requested by Binoka to buy the Coronet, but as the Kurians continued to bring tribute to the Abemamans Binoka destroyed their canoes so that they could not get to Abemama.

Quote Dickson, ~~Ag.~~ R.C. to H.C., 14.8.1912, which records the agreement on the lands question between Paul and the other landowners and the Kurians.

The Abemaman landowners were confirmed in possession and Paul received 20 lbs of copra per piece of land. The Agreement was dated 13.7.1912.

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Gilbert and Ellice Islands

"The future status of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands is suggested by the fact that the 15,000 Micronesians who live in the various Gilbert Helloune "Age" 13. 8. 10. islands, some type of association with their fellow Micronesians in the American Marshall Islands, and the 10,000 Melanesians who live on eight of the nine Ellice Islands are looking DROUGHT IN THE GILBERT ISLANDS for a better life under American guidance". Respects of Faith, p. 71.

Natives suffering great privations

Sydney, Friday.

a drought is being experienced in the Gilbert Group, and as a result the natives are enduring great suffering and privations.

The steamer *Muniana* arrived this afternoon from the islands, and the captain reported that he found the central and southern Gilbert Islands in a bad way. "These islands", said the captain, "are suffering from long and severe drought, and the Government is supplying many of the natives with stores. Fortunately for the natives, their Pandanus trees are still bearing, otherwise their position would be more serious."

Gilbert and Ellice Islands

"The future status of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands is fo^ershadowed by the fact that the 38,000 Micronesians who live in the sixteen Gilbert Islands are already thinking of some type of association with their fellow Micronesians in the American Marshall Islands, and the 10,000 Polynesians who live on eight of the nine Ellice Islands are looking to their fellow Polynesians in American Samoa. In their view, they might fare better under American guidance". Remnants of Empire, p.71.

.....

by Emlyn Jones
(Gilbert Islands)

There are several villages on Beru besides the big Rongorongo Institution. At one of these took place the tragedy, due to the demon of drink, which Mr. Jones tells below



A Beru Tragedy

THE big *maneaba* (equivalent to a village hall) at Ieriko Village on Beru had just been completed. The last line of thatch had been laid. As is the custom after finishing a heavy communal job, merriment and festivities were the order of the day. The people of Ieriko invited their neighbours from Tabocaki village to join them in games and dances. The stretch of broken road leading to Ieriko was a gay scene as men, women and children, dressed in their brightest coloured loincloths, ambled along it, carrying their food in woven baskets suspended on poles carried shoulderwise, one pole between two persons.

By sundown the *maneaba* was dense with people. An open space had been made in the centre of the squatting throng. Here one group after another swayed and gestured in concerted movement, accompanied by loud thumping on a tin drum and rhythmic handclapping and chanting of spectators. As the evening quickly deepened into darkness a few flickering hurricane lamps cast a faint glow on the dancers.

Outside, a solitary figure, arms swinging rather too wildly for sobriety, hurried through the village of deserted huts towards the glow and noise of the *maneaba*. Bakarere, a young man from Tabocaki village, had been celebrating the return, from training in Fiji, of his cousin, a young Government school teacher. He had celebrated in sour toddy, the fermented juice of the palm.

The night was still young for Bakarere. Ahead in the *maneaba* was more hilarity and fun. Stooping below the low eaves, he stumbled into the midst of the seated crowd. He went across to the section allocated by native custom to his family. As he approached his father looked up, and there was no welcoming smile on his face and no word of greeting on his lips.

After an awkward pause, Bakarere growled, "I'm hungry, give me some of that food."

"My son, you are drunk; you shame me before the people," said his father. "Go home and cast no more shame upon my head."

These words angered Bakarere, yet he still feared his father's authority. He would not go home; he moved away to another part of the *maneaba*. He sat down on a mat woven from palm leaves, angry resentment smouldering within him. He

was not a child to be sent away hungry. Was not he a man like his father? He would prove his manhood before the assembled villagers.

Standing up, he crossed his arms over his chest and began to slap the bicep muscles of his arms in the traditional manner of challenging others to fight him. He shouted to the surprised revellers, "I want to fight; I'll fight anyone here—come on! Get up somebody and fight me!"

Conciliatory voices cried out, "Sit down with peace." Angry women shouted, "You're drunk. Go away from here." Some Gilbertese policemen, distinguished only by their red-striped khaki loincloths, stood up and expostulated with him. This made Bakarere angrier. Seeing that he was getting out of control, a couple of policemen closed with him, intending to bundle the rowdy disturber out of the *maneaba*. One of the policemen, a lean man in his thirties, Timeon by name, put his arms around Bakarere to pinion him.

As he did so, Bakarere whipped out a toddy-cutting knife from beneath his loincloth and thrust it deeply into Timeon's left side. Holding his wounded side and groaning with pain and fright, Timeon stumbled across the *maneaba* to where his wife and children were sitting.

Bakarere looked on dazed and uncomprehending. Timeon was his friend!

The unfortunate victim was carried to a nearby hut. Before daybreak he was dead.

The following day the native magistrate asked me to conduct Timeon's burial service. Would I also permit the 1st Gilberts Scout Troop to parade as a token of respect for the deceased? We assembled at Rongorongo and went across the lagoon to the Government station in our lighter. Arriving, we marched to Ieriko village. I went to the hut where Timeon's body lay on a mat covering the coral shingle floor. Alongside it was a crudely-made crate that was his coffin. There had not been enough wood to complete it; large gaps separated the planks. On one plank were the words, "Philips Valves," on another the Australian announcement, "Tooth's Pale Ale." The wood was from packing-cases used for sending supplies to the local wireless operator. Gilbertese are usually buried in mats made from pandanus leaves, and so this imitation of European custom

was a pathetic endeavour to show great respect.

Timeon's relatives were honoured by such prestige.

A mat was rolled around Timeon; accompanied by the loud wailing of his wife and children, he was lifted into the crate. A Union Jack was wrapped around it, hiding the gaps from view. We began to proceed along the long dusty road to the end of the island where the cemetery was. It was getting rather dark, so I borrowed a kerosene lamp. When we came to the track that led off the road through some bush to the cemetery it was night. As we turned off into the bush a number faltered and hung back, fearing the darkness of the bush where one might meet Timeon's wandering spirit. However, plucking up courage at the presence of a European with a lamp, they ultimately followed us along the track to the burial ground. By the glow of the lamplight Timeon was laid to rest in the sandy coral.

In the limestone prison at the Government station Bakarere sat, now sober and sobbing with heartbreaking remorse. Timeon's bereft wife clamoured for his death. She came to see me. Standing on my veranda, she shrieked, "White missionary . . . a life for a life. Bakarere took the life of him who was mine; he must give his life, too, that is right and just."

Bakarere was of the same mind as Timeon's wife.

"I killed my friend," he said; "I, too, should die. My life for his; that is the price of my evil work."

He spent his days reading his Bible and praying to the God Whose image, created in His likeness, he had destroyed.

The law did not require Bakarere's life; he was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment for homicide.

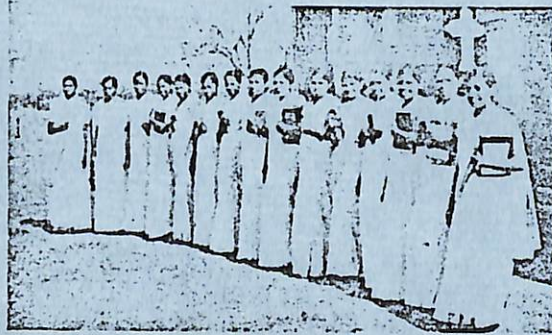
Before the tragedy there had been much spiritual backsliding at Ieriko village. Many had been dropped from Church membership because of drunkenness and immorality. A villager named Boati had led a revival of the old animistic worship of a tree spirit called Beiamatekai. He and his followers made a "sacred clearing" around a tree. The branches of the tree were adorned with feathers to form a big cross. At its foot were placed large coral slabs, votive offerings of tobacco, matches; money and food were deposited beneath these stones. The worshippers sat outside of the "sacred clearing," only Boati and five or six of his assistants called "the Tremblers" (because of the frenzied movements of their bodies when "possessed") were allowed to stand in the cleared space. With incantations and chanting Boati would wave a palm frond which apparently acted as a conductor transmitting the power of the spirit from the tree to the palm frond. When "possessed," Boati transmitted the "power" through his palm frond to the fronds held by his

assistants, who in turn became "possessed," and with much chanting, wild dancing and abandonment passed it on to the devotees squatting outside the low stone boundary of the "sacred clearing," they, too, waving palm fronds.

Timeon's sudden and tragic death was a shock to all the villagers. They began to search their hearts. Pastor Ariu called the people to repentance. More than fifty of these backsliders renounced pagan worship in order to become Christian seekers. Timeon's death seemed a pathetic waste of a man's life, but through his death others sought the Life which the Saviour of the World died to give.

The Beauty of Holiness

by S. E. Ffrench



I took the accompanying snapshot early one Easter morning. It was an important day in the lives of the girls in the eighth standard of Jam-malamadugu Boarding School, for after attending several classes they were ready to be given the right hand of fellowship as they joined the Church, and partook of Holy Communion for the first time in their lives.

I wish my camera could reproduce the colours of this Easter scene: the milk-chocolate brown of the girls' skins contrasted with their white saris; the blue shadows in the folds of the latter cast by the early morning sun; the raven's-wing sheen of their sleeky oiled hair; their brightly-hued glass bangles; the blue sky showing through the cross-shaped window of their school chapel, etc., etc.

These girls are all from outcaste village homes. The majority will become teachers and nurses, almost certainly all will become wives and maybe mothers. None of these girls are angels; some are real schoolgirl "imps," yet they remind one inevitably of the words, "O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."