

We were soon surrounded with canoes and natives, who were indeed fine fellows, of a light brown complexion. These people have been described as the flower of the Polynesian race, and those alongside seemed worthy of the title.

Only a short stay was made at this interesting group of the Western Pacific, as it was necessary to get on our way, so as to meet the favourable monsoons in the Chinese seas. But, short as it was, every opportunity was taken of seeing the surrounding country.

The town of Nukalofa, off which we anchored, is prettily situated in a bread-fruit and cocoa-nut grove, which gives it a pleasing shady appearance, and yet is sufficiently open to admit the cool refreshing breezes of the trade-wind. Facing the sea are the government offices, the residence of the king, the governor, &c., while the native houses are prettily situated in a valley at the back. The houses are lightly constructed of bamboo and palm leaves, and are, for the most part, surrounded with little inclosures, shut in by fences made of cocoa-nut fibre and leaves, shaded by bread-fruit and other varieties of tropical trees of luxuriant foliage.

We had frequent opportunities of seeing the king, who, since embracing Christianity, has taken the name of George Tabu; he and his queen, Charlotte, expressed a wish during our stay to have their portraits taken. This was attended to, and for the