

green foliage and dark rocks. Excellent strawberries were growing in a garden just above the fall, and the plants were mostly in blossom, only a few fruits being ripe. The Mango trees in the same way were mostly in blossom, or with young green fruit. The orange season was just at its end.

The stream is full of small fish (*Dules malo*), one of the Perch family which have adapted themselves entirely to a fresh water life, and rise to a fly like trout. Captain Thomson and other officers of the Expedition who were anglers, got out their fly rods and whipped the stream, catching a few dozen. The stream falls over the rocks and stones in small runs and stickles just like a trout stream, and the fish thrive in the rapid water.

The first camp of the excursion party was made in the head of Fataua Valley, at a height of about 1600 feet, amongst the "Fei" or Wild Plantain (*Musa troglodytarum*, Linn), a species which occurs also in Fiji and elsewhere in Polynesia according to Seemann, though it is possible that the fruit of the wild plant in other places is not equal in quality to that of Tahiti. The plant is closely similar in appearance to an ordinary large banana tree, but the large bunches of fruit, instead of hanging down, stand up erect from the summit of the stem and are bright yellow when ripe. When a bunch of these is thrown into a fire, the outer skin of the fruits becomes blackened and charred, but when it is peeled off with a pointed stick, a yellow floury interior is reached, which resembles a mealy potato, and is most excellent eating. This is one of the very few plants which, growing spontaneously, and in abundance, affords a really good and sufficient source of food to man. Hardly any improvement could be wished for in the fruits by cultivation. It could not but be most advantageous that the plant should be introduced into many other tropical countries. On the way up the valley numerous natives were met going down to Papieté with loads of "Fei."

Rats live in the mountains, and climb up and devour the ripe plantains, and the groves of the trees are traversed in all directions by the tracks of wild pigs, which likewise feed on the fruit. It is strange that the pig should run wild and thrive, under such widely different conditions as it does, and should be able to exist equally well on wild plantains in the warm Tahiti, and on penguins and petrels in the chilly Crozets. In this power of adaptation it approaches man.

It had been raining heavily during the first day's walk, and was still pouring when the halt was made, and the members of the party were all wet through. The guides soon built a small waterproof hut, with sticks and the huge wild plantain leaves. Then they put up another small roof of leaves, and finding dry dead plantain leaves under the shelter of the freshly fallen ones, soon lighted a fire under the roof, and the clothes of the party were dried in the smoke before nightfall, in the midst of the heavy rain. The banana leaves afforded further excellent waterproof covers for clothes and botanical drying paper. No blankets had been taken by the party, because it was wished to make