

therefore returned to the native hut for the night. The sky being remarkably clear, the thermometer sank at daybreak to 55° F. (elevation 1,800 feet). We followed the Punaru Valley down to the sea-shore, and returned to Papeete along the coast. I am much indebted to Mr. Miller, English Consul at Tahiti, for his kindness in hunting up guides for me, and otherwise assisting me.

Mr. Darwin refers to the fact mentioned by Ellis, that long after the introduction of Christianity into Tahiti, wild men lived in the mountains, whose retreat was unknown. The ignorance of the natives concerning the interior of the island is still, as was shown by the failure of our guides, extreme. The guides living on the spot did not even know on which side of the valley to attempt to scale the ridge at its head. The men can climb extremely well, but they do not seem to have any idea of thinking out a route, and judging it as seen from a distance, which is the real art of mountaineering.

The natives are still grateful for favours, as in Mr. Darwin's time. Just as the ship was leaving the older of our guides brought me, as a present, a fine stone adze, which he had been at considerable difficulty to procure from Punaru Valley, where it had been found in the earth, he knowing that I wished very much to obtain one. The stone adzes are now scarce, and fetch their full price in Tahiti.

The orange, lemon, and lime, which grow wild all over Tahiti, do not appear to deteriorate at all in quality, nor in quantity of fruit, although in the feral condition. The fruit almost appears finer and better for running wild. The oranges we all pronounced the best we had ever eaten. The limes lay in cartloads upon the ground, rotting in the woods. It would pay well to make lime-juice for export in Tahiti. Some native insect must have adapted itself completely to the blossoms of the orange tribe as a fertiliser, so abundant is the fruit. Vanilla, which is cultivated in the island with success, requires, as everywhere else away from its home, to be fertilised by hand.

A Mushroom Coral (*Fungia*) is very common all over the reefs at Tahiti. After much search, I found one of the nurse-stocks from which the disc-shaped free corals are thrown off as buds, as was originally shown by Stutchbury, and confirmed by Semper, who considers the case to be an instance of alternation of generations.\*

Though the free corals were so extremely numerous, I could only find the one nurse mass. It, as in Stutchbury's

\* Semper, "Generationswechsel bei Steinkorallen," Zeitschrift für Zoologie, 22. Bd. 1245. Leipzig, Engelmann, 1872, s. 36.