

Australian station. Under his names of Apinoka, Tem Binoka, and Tem Baiteke, he became a terror to his neighbours, and made many warlike excursions upon the adjoining islands.

Having in Apamama Lagoon a chain of islands which produced some thousands of pounds' worth of copra annually, Apinoka spent his revenue royally, devoting, however, the greater part of his income to the purchase of deadly weapons. How far he would have gone in his career of conquest it is hard to say ; but about 1890 his warlike tendencies and conquest of one of the neighbouring islands brought upon him the attention of Captain Moore, of H.M.S. *Dart*, who crushed his ambitious designs of further conquest by depriving him of a great quantity of breechloading rifles.

During his cruise through the islands of the Equatorial Pacific in the steamer *Janet Nicol*, R. L. Stevenson made the acquaintance of his Majesty of Apamama, and the novelist wrote a very interesting and charming account of his experiences. He seemed to have completely won the regard and esteem of the savage King, who was wont to express his admiration for Mr. Stevenson in language of the most vigorous kind.

Before proceeding to relate the writer's personal experience of Apinoka, a brief account of his dominions will not be out of place. Apamama is about the most important of that group of low-lying coral atolls known as the Gilbert Group, or more generally as the Line Islands. Scarcely rising to a height of more than fifteen feet above the level of the sea, they are yet densely covered with vast groves of cocoa-nut palms, and support—for their size—a large population. The soil is merely