

### *APINOKA OF APAMAMA*

A FEW years ago an officer of one of her Majesty's ships, in describing his vessel's cruise through the Gilbert Islands, mentioned that the King of Apamama boarded the war-vessel, and was received with "the usual honours." Apinoka of Apamama is now dead, but in his lifetime he was a man of weight, not only in his own dominions, but would be considered so anywhere else, as he turned the scale at twenty-three stone.

Fat monarchs seem to be the rule among the equatorial islands of the Pacific. Even so far back as the days of Wallis and Cook mention is made of the immense proportions of many of the island kings and chiefs who visited their ships, and up to the present day royalty in the Pacific may, even if only clothed with a grass girdle round the waist, always be known by its superabundance of fat.

Apinoka was the most famous of all the fat potentates of the mid-Pacific isles. He died in November, 1892, and during the course of his reign considerably diminished the population of his own and the adjacent islands of the Gilbert Group; and gave a considerable amount of trouble to the commanders of her Majesty's ships on the