

place, and was surprised to hear "not within anyone's memory."

The hills afford pasturage for large herds of goats, though why they should be permitted to run to such numbers, or what use is made of them, I know not; all are wild, and though individuals lay claim to herds, they might as well relinquish their proprietorship for all the chance they have of catching them. The only animals originally on the island were dogs and pigs to which Vancouver on his return visit added a few cattle and sheep. These, on being presented to the king, were tabooed for ten years, so that, increasing rapidly in such a climate, the country was fairly overrun before the end of the taboo, and permission to drive the herds up the hills was obliged to be granted.

Taro is the principal food of the natives, being cultivated by the women; this root, requiring a constant supply of water, is planted in large pits, or, more properly speaking, mud ponds, in which clay is beaten and