

miles distant. Having obtained the consent of his partner, who was then in very delicate health, he began to prepare for his undertaking. After some deliberation, he determined to build a vessel: and altho' he knew little of ship-building, and had scarcely any tools to work with, he succeeded, in about three months, in completing a vessel (at Rorotonga) between seventy and eighty tons burthen, with no other assistance than that which the natives could render, who were wholly unacquainted with any mechanical art. The account which he gives of the commencement and completion of this object, though very interesting, and showing the ingenuity of his plans very conspicuously, is rather long for insertion. Success crowned his efforts and his vessel was called the "Messenger of Peace," which she proved to be on many occasions. It was thought prudent before going to the most distant places, to try the strength of the vessel by paying a visit to Aitutaki. After losing the foremast, returning and repairing, they reached Aitutaki on Sabbath morning, in time to conduct the services of the day. After remaining eight or ten days, they returned to Rorotonga, with an importation of pigs, cocoa-nuts and cats. The pigs and cats were found very efficient instruments in destroying the rats which literally swarmed the island. Shortly after their return Mr. and Mrs. Bazacott from England, arrived to occupy one of the stations at Rorotonga. The king, after appointing a Regent to act for him till he should return, embarked with Mr. Williams for Tahiti. The inhabitants of this lovely spot evinced considerable feeling at the prospect of losing them. For more than a month prior to their departure, little groups would collect in the cool of the evening, and when sitting around the trunk of some tree of gigantic growth, or beneath the shade of a stately banana, would sing in plaintive tones the stanzas they had composed to express their sorrow at the anticipated separation. On the evening of departure several thousands accompanied the party to the beach; and as the boat left the shore, they sang with one voice, it may be added, with one heart,

Kia ora e Tama ma
I te aereinga i te moana e!

'Blessing on you, beloved friends; blessing on you in journeying on the deep.' This they repeated at very short intervals, the sound becoming fainter and fainter, until they were lost in the distance. The effect was so overpowering that not a person in the boat could refrain from weeping. They reached Raiatea in safety, having touched at Papeete harbour, Tahiti, after an absence of twelve months, and were affectionately greeted by the people.

A few circumstances connected with Rorotonga may be here introduced. The first is of the ludicrous kind, and will illustrate the ignorance and superstition of this people. A favourite cat had been taken on shore by one of the teachers' wives on our first visit; and not liking his new companions, Tom fled to the mountains. The house of the priest Tiaki, who had just destroyed his idol, was situated at a distance from the settlement; and at midnight, while he was lying asleep on his mat, his wife who was sitting awake by his side, musing upon the strange events of the day, beheld with consternation, two fires glistening in the

door-way, and heard with surprize a mysterious voice. Almost petrified with fear, she awoke her husband, and began to upbraid him with his folly for burning his god, who, she declared was now come to be avenged of them. "Get up and pray, get up and pray," she cried. The husband arose, and on opening his eyes, beheld the same glaring lights, and heard the same ominous sounds. Impelled by the extreme urgency of the case, he commenced, with all possible vehemence, vociferating the alphabet, as a prayer to God to deliver them from the vengeance of Satan. On hearing this the cat, as much alarmed as the priest and his wife, of whose nocturnal peace he had been the unconscious disturber, ran away, leaving the poor people congratulating themselves on the efficacy of their prayer. On a subsequent occasion, puss, in his perambulations, went to the district of the Satanees; and as the marae stood in a retired spot, and was shaded by the rich foliage of trees of ancient growth, Tom, pleased with the situation, and wishing to be found in good company, took up his abode with the gods; and not meeting with any opposition from those within the house, he little expected any from those without. Some few days after, however, the priest came, accompanied by a number of worshippers, to present some offerings to the god, and on opening the door Tom very respectfully greeted him with a mew. Unaccustomed to such salutations, instead of returning it, he rushed back with terror, shouting to his companions, "Here's a monster from the deep, here's a monster from the deep!" Upon this the whole party hastened home, collected several hundreds of their companions, put on their war-caps, brought their spears, clubs and slings, blackened themselves with charcoal, and thus equipped, came shouting to attack "poor puss." Affrighted at this formidable array of war, Tom immediately sprang towards the open door, and darting through the terror-stricken warriors, they fled with the greatest precipitation in all directions. In the evening, these brave conspirators against the life of a cat were entertaining themselves and a numerous company of spectators with a dance, when Tom, wishing to see the sport, and bearing no malice, came to take a peep. No sooner did he present himself, than the terrified company fled in consternation! and the heroic warriors of the district again armed themselves, and gave chase to this unfortunate cat. But the "monster of the deep," being too nimble for them, again escaped their vengeance. Some hours after, when all was quiet, Tom, being disturbed in his residence with the gods, determined unwisely to renew his acquaintance with men; and, in the dead of the night, he returned to the house, and crept beneath a coverlet, under which a whole family was lying, and there fell asleep. Unfortunately his purring awoke the man under whose cloth he had cradled, and who, supposing that some other monster had come to disturb them, closed the door-way, awoke the people of the house, and procured lights to search for the intruder. Poor Tom, fatigued with the two previous engagements of the day, lay quietly asleep, when the warriors, with their clubs and spears, attacked him most valiantly, and thought themselves singularly brave in putting an end to the formidable "monster."

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