

reminding one of living vermicelli, and appears only in October and November, especially in the latter month, and it is said at a certain phase of the moon, when, before sun-rise, they appear on the surface in countless millions. The natives are out, and every available canoes and boat is on the water to store the catch. It is a veritable and material Diet of Worms, in contradistinction to the other one about four centuries ago. As soon as the sun is above the horizon they disappear as mysteriously as they came, and another twelve month must elapse ere the dainty dish becomes available. It is a great treat for those living some distance inland to receive a basket of these worms. In sending such a gift, it is always first partially cooked to prevent it from spoiling too quickly. This was always done, too, when sending human flesh. The Fijian never ate tainted fish or birds; but he was not so fastidious with a joint off his neighbor.

Dogs, pigs and fowls were found on many of the South Sea Islands, at the time of their discovery, so that they were not introduced by Europeans. Cattle, however, were introduced by the early navigators.

It is peculiar how a wrong notion once conceived, persists. When the Fijian saw the first bull and cow introduced, and mighty strange animals they were to him, he asked what they were, bull and a cow, was the answer. He took this to be one word, and adopted it as signifying the species, so that when he eats a piece of beef, as some now do, he says he eats bullamakow. Milk is, to the adult Fijian, disgusting; as he puts it, to drink the juice squeezed out of an animal, away! The eating of eggs, too, is considered babyish.

The South Sea Islanders, especially the Samoans and Tongans, are cleanly in their persons. However, the forest of hair of the Fijians, is I think not wholly untenanted. The Polynesians after their daily bath generally rub themselves with scented cocoanut oil. Formerly sandalwood, which was abundant, served the purpose of perfume by grating it on coral. Now, sweet smelling flowers are used. Many a time in the early evening was I made aware of my approach to the Samoan quarters by the fragrance borne on the balmy air. Undoubtedly these people of the coral strand are far cleaner than the average white man.