

the same thing with some other honourable families, surely there can be no glory either to Hindu society or to the religion of Christ.

"However, had Baboo Ram Mohund Mullick lived up to this time, or his spirit appeared in the meeting by the agency of spiritualism, he would have expressed his utter surprise at the things before him. We did not dream that the Hindus would become civilized so soon, or throw off the shackles of their religion so readily; but we are at a loss to consider what will be the fate hereafter of the great respectable goddess of the household known by the name of *Singho Bahinee* ('Bahinee upon the Lion.')

The clouds of this afflicting thought have covered the sky of our heart."

"Rather curious and suggestive from the pen, not of a Christian, but of a Hindu editor. The society and the family, before I came in contact with them, were greatly under the influence of a French infidel, who had given a most injurious lecture on the Christian atonement, of course misrepresenting and ridiculing the whole thing. He has, however, never appeared at any of the meetings since I have been appointed its president. It is not a Christian society—in fact, I am the only Christian in it—but the members are always willing to give attentive hearing to anything Christian brought forward. Of course another member is at equal liberty to bring forward and advocate the Hindu religion, or Brahmoism. But the former gets no advocates in discussion, and the latter has not a strong hold on its members."

Samoa, as it was, and as it is.

Geography.—Samoa (*Sa-mo-a*) is the native name of the group of Islands, in the South Pacific Ocean, which lies between 13° 30' and 14° 20' south latitude, and 169° 24' and 172° 50' west longitude. This group is more generally known as the "NAVIGATORS' ISLANDS." Its number of inhabited islands is ten, with a population of about 34,700. It is 265 miles long, and includes an area of 1,650 square miles. All the islands are of volcanic origin, and contain several craters, the largest of which if we except the harbour of Pangopango, Tutuila, is on Savaii.

The variety and beauty of the appearance of these islands almost baffle description.—The effect, upon visitors, of a first sight of them, is enchanting, nor is much of the enchantment lost after a long acquaintance with them.

The People.—The people are physically a very fine race, and possess good mental capabilities. Their fine personal appearance has been the subject of remark of almost all intelligent visitors. Their colour is light olive. The following sketch of them, by a

keen observer, is a truthful portrait:—"A remarkably tall, fine-looking set, with intelligent and pleasing countenance, and a frank and open expression. The average height of the men is five feet ten inches.—Their features are not in general prominent, but are well marked and distinct. The nose is short and wide at the base; the mouth large, and well filled with white and strong teeth, with full and well turned lips; the eyes black, and often large and bright; the forehead narrow and high; the cheek bones prominent. Of beard they have little, but their hair is strong, straight and black."

Form of Government.—Their form of government partakes very much of the *patriarchal*, and seems to contain in it also the incipency of the democratic and monarchical. The villages of Samoa are small, numbering from fifty to five hundred inhabitants each. Every village consists of a number of families, who own their land within their own boundaries. Each family has a hereditary title, and whoever, by agreement of the family, bears that title is considered as the head and ruler of the family. Of these heads of families about half are chiefs, and the other half their advisers and supporters. The one are called *Alu*, the other *Tulafale*. *Alu* have a voice in deliberation which affects the community, but the chiefs are the recognized rulers. Of these chiefs one has a hereditary supremacy, and he it is who *ostensibly decides*, in council, all matters affecting the interest of the village. Any decision issued from such a council is *law* to the whole village. This head chief is regarded very much as king of the village, and the other chiefs are called his little brothers, his brother chiefs, &c. His sway may be, according to the disposition of the man, more or less despotic, but, if he carry matters with too high a hand, his brother chiefs may transfer the title to some other member of the royal line.

Their Worship.—The Samoans, like the Athenians, were exceedingly devoted to the worship of demons. They seem to have recognized one supreme god whom they called *Tangaloa* (*Tan-ga-loa*), the meaning of which is, perhaps, the Unrestrained or Illimitable one, from *tanga*, which means *unrestrained by tabu*, and *loa*, *continuously*, but they seem to have regarded him as too high and too far removed from them to offer him much or any worship. They ascribed to him creation, but their worship had to do with beings whom they supposed to be near them in some visible object. Every district, village, and family had its own god, and so also had each individual.

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In every phenomena of nature, in every remarkable spot on their island, and in