

universally Christians than are the English or Americans, for all profess its doctrines. The Sabbath day is rigorously observed, attendance at church is general, while morning and evening prayers and hymns are omitted in no household.

"A gentle, tractable people, naturally inclined to be devotional, with many traditions bearing striking similarity to the Mosaic account of creation, possessed of a language made up of and conducing to the employment of figurative expression, they readily embraced Christianity, and its introduction was more a work of patience than difficulty. Naturally, little sensible of the serious appreciation of responsibility; light, frivolous, under a system not calculated to the development of individual character, difficult to impress and with but slight capacity to retain lasting impression, the *obligations* of religion rest but lightly upon them.

"Missions are maintained and indefatigably prosecuted by the London Missionary Society, the Wesleyan Mission, the Roman Catholic Church, and, in a small way, by the Mormon Church. These churches all maintain good schools, those of the London Mission and the Marists of the Catholic Church being especially well conducted and prosperous. At Malua, on the coast of Upolu, twelve miles to the west of Apia, the London Mission maintains a theological seminary for the education of native preachers—or missionaries, as all preachers and priests alike are termed in the South Seas—with above 200 students. The semi-centennial of this college was celebrated with impressive ceremonies last autumn. In Apia schools are maintained by the missions for both males and females, and indeed schools are established at several places throughout the group.

"It is estimated that the Catholic Church has 7,000 native communicants; all the remaining four-fifths of the population are divided in membership between the London and the Wesleyan missions, the former having much the larger following, while the number of converts to the Mormon faith is small and apparently shows little increase.

"Foreign missionaries are still in control of the direction of the Church and educational interests, but especially through the facilities of the Malua Seminary, the London Mission is able to provide natives in response to all demands for ministers and teachers. It may be estimated that fully one-half of all persons over twenty years of age can read and write; with few exceptions, all of both sexes under that age are educated to that extent. Beyond this, and the addition of elementary arithmetic, education does not extend, save to those in the mission schools designed for the ministry.