

was formerly known was Taufaaahau. When quite a lad, he gave promise of his future greatness by his brave disposition. As he grew to man's estate, he appeared as a *chief* among a fine and noble race; the size and dignity of his person exceeding that of many of the chiefs by whom he was surrounded.

He is now a tall, fine-looking, well-made man, six feet four inches in height, with a remarkably penetrating eye, dignified carriage, and his countenance sweetly tempered with Christian benignity.

The name of his grandfather was Tuku-aho, one of the former kings of Tonga. He was a brave, but cruel man; and the *matua*, or "old-men," of Tonga, predicted that King George would be like him, as he appeared to resemble him in energy of character, and fierceness of disposition. His father's name was Tubou-toa: (*toa* means "courageous:") he reigned about eight years.

Taufaaahau at first governed only that group of islands known by the name of Habai; but, upon the death of his relative, Finau, baptized Zephaniah, he succeeded to the government of Vavau; and, upon the death of Josiah Tubou, Tonga was likewise added to his territories; both of these kings, upon their death-beds, acknowledged George as the lawful heir of Tubou-toa, and they resigned their lands and people to him. Upon his accession to the throne of Tonga he was, with much ceremony, on the 4th of December, 1845, dignified with the title of Tuikanokubolu; this title, according to the opinion of a Tonguese, is somewhat above a king, and perhaps agrees with our term emperor. Thus, by heritage, and by the general wish of the natives, King George sits upon the throne of his fathers, and, as a Christian King, reigns over an improving and a happy people.

The dress of the king, in the picture, is that used upon state occasions; it is a large mat folded around the waist. It is very cumbersome, and not as becoming as his usual costume. The portrait was taken by Oswald Brierly, Esq., of H. M. S. Meander, Hon. Captain Keppel, on the occasion of her visit to Tonga in June, 1851.

Having informed my readers respecting his majesty of the Friendly Islands, I will give you an account of a circumstance which happened while he was still a heathen:—

When Taufaaahau was quite a youth, the champion of the Friendly Islands gave a public challenge, at a *kava* ring, to any one to come forward and engage with him in single combat, with a *balulafa*, (an instrument made from the middle part of the cocoa-nut leaf.) Taufaaahau accepted the challenge, fought, and proved victorious. Both arms of the champion being broken, he was defeated and disgraced. Not being able to endure this mortification, he shortly afterward left the island, and proceeded to Feejee.

Thus fought and thus conquered this youthful chief, and at this period the predictions of the aged appeared likely to be fulfilled, and the pride, ambition, daring, and determination of Taufaaahau to be satisfied with nothing less than universal dominion.

But a brighter and more glorious day was about to dawn upon the green isles of the sea, and the good fight of faith was to engage the powerful mind of this chief. He was about twenty-six years of age when the Tonguese, with their Goliath, might have changed their war song for the following poetic lines: "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth *peace*; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth *salvation*!"

The missionaries first settled at Tongatuba. Taufaaahau heard of them,