

&c.; such plants and flowers they had also growing round some of their houses. The ground for taro plantations was prepared at great trouble in terraces, and supplied by artificial irrigation. After we got down, the sounding of a wooden drum made us aware that the principal chief had come home, and soon after a nice looking old man he called his father came to call us; and while we waited to explain to him the object of our visit, and arranging for the site of the tent, one messenger, a second, and a third, came in quick succession, informing us that the great chief was waiting for us. The old man conducted us to his house. We found His Majesty seated on a large stone, raised about three feet from the ground on four stone pillars, in front of his house. He did not rise, but with a small branch made a sign for us to come to him, which we did, when he laid down the branch, and assigned Mr. Gordon a seat on his right hand and me on his left. After a little conversation he asked which of us had come to be his missionary, and on being informed that it was Mr. Gordon, he paid little more attention to me, except now and again to give me a nod of his head and a word to let me know that he was not altogether forgetting me. The old chief called his father sat on a piece of wood before him; his son, some six or seven years of age, stood between his knees; and a number of smart little boys and his interpreter sat on the ground at his feet. A number of under chiefs, and upwards of a hundred men, all unarmed, sat at a distance round about, and a crowd of women and children occupied the background. He appeared a calm, thoughtful person, and conducted himself with a dignified bearing towards us and his people, as now and then he explained to them parts of the conversation, to which they manifested their satisfaction by smiling and bowing their heads. In person he was a very powerful man, and his arms, legs, and person were loaded with beautiful shell ornaments, such as I had not before seen any native wearing; and a pure white shell, about the shape and size of a coffee-cup, was fastened to his head, right above his brow. Most cordially he granted all Mr. Gordon's wishes, and seemed deeply interested in him, the more so as he was able to speak to them a little in their own language. Next morning the chief, his father, and his son, came on board the *Dayspring*, and we gave them presents; after which they went ashore with us and the wood and tent for Mr. Gordon's dwelling, which they at once carried to the site we had chosen for it. I also gave some seven or eight other chiefs a present of a piece of calico, a mirror, a knife, a pair of scissors, and some fish-hooks each. Captain Fraser kindly sent the mate, the carpenter, a sea-

man, and some five or six natives from the *Dayspring* to help us. The Santo people had cleared the ground we had selected, and cut wood, out of which we got 15 pieces 7 feet long, which we sunk into the ground, or rock, two feet deep; and above these we laid a deal floor 16 by 10, on which we erected his tent; so that it stands five feet above ground on a projecting point some 150 feet above the level of the sea, and only a few feet from where it descends to the sea almost perpendicularly, and commanding a fine view of the ocean and shore on each side, and likely to be the most healthy spot in the whole district. The tent has 4 feet of flooring in front of it, to which a wood stair ascends, and is as comfortable as it is possible for such a residence to be; but a wood house or weather board one of the same size would have been much more suitable, and not much more expensive.—We also set up an old tent of his in which to keep his provisions and boxes. When the tent was raised on the platform, the native excitement rose to its highest, and they all gathered round with exclamations of wonder and praises, and soon after dispersed to their homes very quietly. Both at the south and north end of the island the chiefs and people complained bitterly of white men coming in their vessels and stealing their friends. A vessel had called lately, they could not tell how many months ago, and bound hand and foot and carried away a large number of young men, and among them one of the young men Mr. Gordon had at Erromanga training for a year to help him in his work on Santo.—An interpreter said—"Misse, man Santo no kill any white man, and what for white man make fist and take away man Santo? No good—no good white man; very bad white man tie hand and feet of man Santo, all the same pig, and take him away.—Plenty man Santo jump overboard and swim ashore, and white man shoot plenty musket at him; but he dive below and swim below, come up, catch breath, and dive again when white man shoot musket at him. Suppose man Santo no dive below, plenty man Santo dead. No good white man steal and shoot man Santo. Very good you make letter tell chief Sydney send back man Santo." We had many such complaints. Perhaps the natives were made more bitter in their complaints by seeing a slaver, the *Latona*, Capt. Martin, lying off and on a little south of us, and his boat plying between the shore and the vessel all day. One man said, "If Capt. Harry (another name for Capt. Lewin) is in her, very good man Santo kill him; he no good." Capt. Fraser and we tried all we could to prevent them doing this by warning them of the fearful consequences. On coming off from the shore near dark,