

oans and Tongans, the greeting word has changed to "Alofa," the vowels remaining the same while the h changes to an f; now, when we reach New Zealand, the land of the Maoris, we are greeted with "Aroha". In this the Hawaiian l is changed to an r, as is done in many other words having the same meaning and retaining the same vowels.

It requires but a short study and comparison to show the common stock of the languages spoken through the groups known as the Hawaiian, Samoan, Tongan, Tahitian and New Zealand; but we must draw the line of language demarcation just east of Fiji; from there westward to the Solomon's, New Hebrides, and New Guinea, we get into a "black" country, and the language rich in vowels disappears. In order to make comparisons and to identify the same word in two of the Polynesian dialects, it is necessary to know the consonants of each language, and their mutual transition; that is, we must be familiar with the law corresponding to Grimm's law for the older Indo-Germanic, Low and High German languages. The vowels, as shown in Aloha and its variations, remain almost always the same.

Here we have then, in this vast archipelago lying on both sides of the equator and covering over four thousand miles in latitude and 6,000 miles in distance, one common language, yet differing in detail, spoken.

In Hawaiian we find only seven consonants, h, k, l, m, n, p, w, besides the usual five vowels, a, e, i, o, u. One peculiarity of the Polynesian language is that every word ends in a vowel and no two consonants can follow each other without the interposition of a vowel.

One finds it strange that simple words in one's mother tongue should offer difficulty, even to impossibility, in pronunciation to others. Take the simple word, "dog"; to the Hawaiian this is impossible of pronunciation; it presents three difficulties. In the first place he has no d sound, nor that of g, and lastly there is no terminal vowel. If we substitute two of his consonants and make the word lop, he would still have to add a final vowel before the word became pronounceable. If we ask him to say "Pacific," our name of the ocean that bathes his sunny isles, he will say "Pa-