

nine days. Here they were joined by Dr. Pickering and Lieutenant Maury, and found the old chief Malietoa and his son Mole, who were extremely courteous. On the former being presented with some articles, he remarked, that "our property was very good, but our good-will better."

Dr. Pickering engaged natives to accompany him into the interior, and to visit the Mu or burnt district. Preparations for the journey were made in advance, and among other things it was stipulated, that there should be only two meals a day: one early in the morning, and another in the evening. The first day, however, was to form an exception.

Mr. Hardie accompanied the party for a few miles, and they soon after their departure met a native who was styled "the Lord of the Forest." The party were desirous that this man should accompany them, for his appearance promised more than that of the others, and it seemed it was necessary to obtain his permission before they could enter the forest. In times of scarcity, his domains become of great value, in consequence of the quantity of wild yams they yield. This person agreed to accompany them, and they proceeded along a good path through cultivated grounds of Taro, *Dracæna*, &c. Mr. Hardie, before leaving the party, endeavoured to make the natives understand the nature of Dr. Pickering's errand; the latter was unable to make himself understood by them. They had not proceeded far before they came to an uninhabited house, where the natives stopped for the purpose of preparing dinner, the cooking of which occupied three hours! The day was in consequence well advanced before they again started, and at about 4 P. M. they reached an open shed, about two miles from the last stopping-place, where the natives concluded to halt for the night. The occupants, who consisted of two elderly women and a young man, were dispossessed, and the shed was enclosed by hanging up leaves of the *Heliconia*, which resemble those of the banana. They then prepared some excellent cocoa-nut pudding, and heated some cocoa-nut milk in the shells. This beverage is usually taken by them every morning and evening; the natives all saying grace before their meal, and prayers before they went to rest. It was late the next morning before Dr. Pickering could get the party in motion, and pursuing their route, they soon overtook the Lord of the Forest, who had preceded them, and was employed in cutting a path through the woods, although that already made might have been easily passed through. No inducement could make them change