

adoration. It is not the mere grossness of idolatry, for many of them have no images, and those who have, look upon them simply as representations of their deities, but it is a constant, profound, absorbing sense of the ever-present activity of divine agency, which constitutes the peculiarity of this element in the moral organization of this people.

The character here described is that of the Polynesians as a nation. But there are certain traits by which the inhabitants of the different groups are distinguished from one another morally as well as physically. And in most cases it is easy to see that these diversities of character have their origin either in some natural peculiarities of the countries which they inhabit, or in their form of government. The New Zealanders, the Marquesans, and the natives of the Paumotu Group, are remarkable for their ferocious temper and addiction to war. In the first-named, the great extent of the country, with the scarcity of food, has caused a separation of the inhabitants into numerous petty tribes, independent of one another; among these, constant occasions of dissension arise, which inflame to an extraordinary degree the naturally bloodthirsty and cruel disposition of the race to which they belong. In the Marquesas, each of the large islands has a high steep ridge of mountains running through it; from this ridge, lateral spurs, hardly less elevated, and almost precipitous, descend to the sea-shore, thus forming several deep valleys, walled in on every side, except towards the sea, by a natural fortification. The consequence is, the existence, as at New Zealand, of numerous separate tribes, who are continually at war, and hence the fierce, sanguinary, and untameable character of the people. In the Paumotu Archipelago, it is easy to see that each of the fifty or sixty islands which compose it would be inhabited by a small but independent people, and that the same result would follow.

Again,—on those groups which are situated nearest the equator, where the heat which relaxes the human frame calls into existence, with little or no aid from human labour, the fruits which serve to support life, we expect to find the inhabitants a soft, listless, and indolent race; while a severer clime and ruder soil are favourable to industry, foresight, and a hardy temperament. These opposite effects are manifested in the Samoans, Nukuhivans, and Tahitians, on the one side, and the Sandwich Islanders and New Zealanders on the other. In the two physical causes noted in this and the preceding paragraph, we see the source of the combined ferocity and sensuality