

III. ISLAND OF UPOLU.

1. GENERAL FEATURES.

Upolu is a narrow strip of land, lying nearly in an east-by-south and west-by-north direction. It is a mountain ridge, varying from one to three thousand feet in height. The slopes are of very different character in various parts, and we thus distinguish a *Western, Middle,* and *Eastern* district. In the middle portion, extending from Laulii, on the north side, to Tiavea, a distance of fifteen miles, the mountains have the bold and angular features of the older basaltic islands. Deep valleys cut through their sides; or they fall in abrupt precipices, through many hundred feet of their height. Numerous thready cascades pour down the steep surface in long white lines.

These features are strikingly seen around Fangalooa Bay. The bay is a deep indentation, running nearly three miles into the island, between lofty spurs from the mountains. Amid the dense foliage that covers the inaccessible heights on either side, especially on the eastern, there are several of these high waterfalls. On the west of the bay stands the lofty, pointed summit of Mount Fao, supposed to be the highest on the island: its altitude is about 3200 feet. The only rival is part of the main ridge back of Solo-solo. On the opposite side of Fangalooa, stands with erect front and towering summit, a less lofty but more picturesque peak, called Malatta. At the head of the bay, the ridge runs up into a sharp conical eminence, of very regular shape, called Mount Vaaolata.

The coast of this portion of the island, on the north side, is indented with other large bays, a mile in depth. Tiavea and Eoafatu are the principal of them. On the top of the high mountain that separates Eoafatu from Fangalooa, there is a small lake.

These broken features characterize the whole of the Middle district. Throughout its extent, the mountain declivities, with few exceptions, rise abruptly from the sea, or there is but a narrow strip of land on the shores; and from Falifa to Tiavea the abruptness below the surface of the sea is shown by the absence of the coral reef. Only narrow fringing ledges border the bays.

At Falifa there is a broad plain, which rises gently from the coast, and extends about six miles back. It is from five to six miles long,