

undulating. At short intervals of a few miles, the horns and gently swelling sides of one crater after another may be clearly distinguished. There are four or five of these craters on the outline of the ridge in the Western district, and as many in the Eastern district of the island, (figures, page 325.) We shall return to this subject, and give a particular description of the craters examined, after completing our general remarks on the features of the island.

The whole island is covered with forests; or rather, it is one dense forest from the extreme east to the west end, and from the water's edge to the very summit of the most rugged peaks. The natives have spread their cocoanut groves and bread-fruit trees along the shores, but in many places the line of forests remains yet unbroken, and nothing can exceed its richness and beauty. Shrubbery and sugar-canes cover some parts of the lower declivities of the mountains, but there is nowhere a spot of natural pasture land.

The island is in general well watered. There is scarcely a day in the year without low and heavy clouds about the summits of the mountains. Many streams of moderate size flow down both sides of the island to the sea. The rivers Falifa and Salangi, on opposite sides of the same ridge, are the largest. The latter rises just south of the Fangaloa Mountains, winds about for twelve or fourteen miles as a mountain torrent, occasionally tumbling in cascades through deep gorges, and reaches the sea at Salangi. It is two fathoms deep at its mouth, but rapidly changes to a brawling streamlet, a short distance back. The Falifa River is described as still longer in its winding course. A third of a mile from the sea it comes dashing along over a rocky bed, noisily leaps down a precipice of thirty feet, and then flows slowly and quietly on to the bay. Below the falls it averages by our estimate, eighty feet in width, and has more than three feet of water through this whole distance.

Smaller streamlets are numerous: one empties at Apia, another at Lotofanga, two at Sinaapu; but they scarcely merit naming.

The eastern and western extremities of the island are poorly supplied with streams, on account of the cellular character of the volcanic rocks and the subterranean passages among them. From Apia westward there are many fountains gushing out along the shores, proceeding from the subterranean waters; the number is at least one a mile. Some of the streams flow for a while in the mountains, and then suddenly sink to emerge again in these springs of the coast, or beneath the sea.