

NORTHERN COOK ISLANDS

1870 - 1899

PERON, Capt. "Memoires du Capitaine Peron sur ses voyages
.....". Paris, Brissot-Thivars, 1824. 2 vols.

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Rough translation by Mr John Earnshaw of Vol.I, pp.259-82, which relate to the visit of the 'Otter' (Capt. Dorr) to Tonga in March, 1796, and the first attempt ever made to land on Pukapuka, on the 4th April, 1796. There is also a note on Mr Muir, the Scottish Martyr, who left Sydney on the 'Otter' for America, and mention of a sailor who deserted at Nomuka and several convicts who left at Eua.

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PUKAPUKA

1796

TONGA

Perhaps I am wrong in throwing all the blame on to one man for such odious conduct; the official character of the entire relationship proves that there was solidarity of perfidiousness between all the English, as there will probably be an equal share of booty so nobly acquired.

At the very time that Captain Barba broke the news of the capture of the EMILIE, another incident of no less importance to me came to pass; the three masted American vessel, Otter, from Boston, Captain Ebenezer Dorr, had just arrived in the harbour; he had left the Isle of Amsterdam a few days after my departure, and not finding anybody there had taken on board all my skins and effects. The lack of water, wood and other articles had obliged him to put in at Port Jackson.

Accompanied by Mr Hadley, I called on Mr Dorr. The dealings I had with this officer and the ones I had later on, were of secondary importance and I will come straight to the results of our first agreement. After having eluded the main point for quite a while Mr Dorr said that he considered himself very fortunate to have been sent by Providence to the aforementioned spot and put my skins in a safe place, and while I was waiting to realise their value he offered me a position on his ship as first officer for his trip to the North West Coast of America and China and the return to Boston. I accepted his offer.

Before leaving Port Jackson I owe it to myself to declare that I don't confuse all Englishmen with those who think I have cause to complain, and whom I have already mentioned; he is one who does not exhibit his philanthropy, and who does good without ostentation;

Among these I name Captain Hadley, who after picking me up at the Isle of Amsterdam continued to show a kindness towards me of which a very vivid memory will always remain in my heart. At Sydney Cove the officers and employees who heard about my mishaps showed great interest in me.

CHAPTER XVI

Unknown Island - Friendly Islands - Mongo-Lahy - Annamouka - Exchanges with the natives - Signalling of numerous reefs - Ea-oo-Wee - Tonga - Taboo - Discovery of three islands, fright of the inhabitants. Several ideas on the formation of the islands of South America - and on the manner in which they are peopled.

The 18th February, 1796, in accordance with my arrangements with Mr Dorr I left Port Jackson on the OTTER, of which he was Captain. The ship set a course to the East. Our intention was to go north of New Zealand. During the day of the 19th, at $34^{\circ} 56'$ latitude south and $153^{\circ} 6'$ longitude east of Greenwich, 107 miles from Port Jackson on a direct course, east 30° south, we noticed the signs of a shelf of sand or coral, approximately three hundred feet in circumference which appeared to be 15 to 20 fathoms deep.

On the 2nd March, after a change in the weather and winds the sea became suddenly still like ice, and of a whitish colour; it was covered with phosphorescent matter known to the naturalists as Medusa ("Jelly fish or blubber") and to the mariners as Flemish bonnets. In spite of the fact that the weather was very overcast, there was a light around the ship so bright that one could read the smallest characters. I presumed that we were passing to the leeward of an unknown island; two circumstances confirmed my idea. We

had seen an enormous amount of birds such as tropical birds, sea swallows etc., which at sun down went off towards the ENE which was on our port-bow. The next at 3 a.m. the watch gave me $178^{\circ} 56' 6''$ longitude east of Greenwich, which reduced at 3 a.m. time at which we should have passed the island at $178^{\circ} 29'$ longitude and $29^{\circ} 50'$ latitude south.

On the 3rd at nine p.m. having entered the region of south-east winds, we put our course between the north and the east. The 5th at 10 a.m. our longitude was $184^{\circ} 21' 15''$ and our latitude $25^{\circ} 54'$. At that time, the Isle Vasquez, which we did not then know about should have been to the North West about 15 leagues distant. On the 6th, by distance from the sun to the moon, the longitude was $186^{\circ} 6' 30''$ south and our latitude $24^{\circ} 11'$ south.

On the 7th at two o'clock in the morning we crossed the tropic of Capricorn. The north wind was blowing slightly; the air was balmy with the delicious perfumes as though sent to us by strongly scented flowers. There were a few islands in this direction but we were not able to signal them; our latitude was then $23^{\circ} 27'$ south and the longitude east $186^{\circ} 18'$. These could have been one of the Friendly Group; Eacou or Middleburgh, the most southern of them all, remained at that time at 40 leagues north east. I supposed that we should be at proximity of Sola Island which is south of the aforementioned, and of which the longitude in this case would be $2^{\circ} 30'$ - carried too far east on the maps. During that same day we came across large numbers of land birds and red tropic birds as well as various kinds of sea plants floating on the water and until the 11th the same objects were in sight. We were going then to the north north-east, and our latitude at midday was $20^{\circ} 53'$ and the

longitude $186^{\circ} 3'$ at 16 leagues in the south east of Rotterdam (Annamouka), according to the position fixed by Captain Cook. A little low and wooded island appeared in front of us at 5 leagues distance. We could not see any inhabitants on it.

The next day, the 8th March, at 11 o'clock, continuing on our course West-North-West we were in sight of 22 islands and three dangerous reefs, one at the west south-west, the other to the north, and the third to the south-east. These seem to lie at three or four miles from the land. At mid-day I observed $20^{\circ} 22'$ latitude and $185^{\circ} 30'$ longitude. Rotterdam was then to the north-west at 3 leagues distance and between us and a small island, surrounded by breakers out of which one could see a great number of canoes coming towards us. When the Indians came on board they told us that the island was called Mongi-Lahi. At mid-day, as we could not pass it we tacked to the east to get higher up, and at 2 o'clock we tacked to the west again.

We came upon another canoe from the island, carrying five natives, who came on board. One of them told us he was the Chieftain, and offered us cooked fish according to their custom, wrapped in cocoanut leaves. We greeted them in a friendly manner, and told them of our intention of going to Annamouka. This announcement pleased him. He clapped his hands, roared with laughter, and held us against him. He sent his canoe back and under his guidance we passed north of Annamouka with a good breeze from the north-east. At 3 o'clock we were met by a great number of canoes, big and small, carrying an abundance of fruit. After having passed the northern end of the island we backed and filled in order to allow the vessel to drift along the West coast, at a

distance of approximately two miles, taking care to make continual soundings in order to drop anchor at the first convenient spot. We could only find coral shelves ranging at unequal distances from about 15 to 9 and 6 fathoms. With the coming of night we were obliged to anchor in 10 fathoms on a coral bottom at the south-west of the island. All the time we were searching for a place to anchor we kept up very active bargaining with the natives. By 8 o'clock that night the decks were laden with five to six kinds of bananas, water melons, - the lightest weighing about 12 pounds, oranges, yams, sweet potatoes, pineapples, cocoa nuts, bread fruit, sugar cane, chaddocks. When night fell we fired a cannon, the natives understood the signal, took to their canoes and went back to the island.

There were more than one thousand tall and vigorous natives, who were renowned for their adroitness and their tendency to steal anything that appealed to them. In case they made an attack, and as a precautionary measure we brought all the swords and guns on the deck, and our 10 cannons were charged and run out. The night passed and at sunrise we fired a cannon. At this signal the sea immediately became covered with canoes, and a most picturesque scene opened up before us. It was a race as to who should reach us first. A hundred canoes swarmed around the ship. Bartering started again for scissors and knives. We had seen pigs, but the natives seemed reluctant in parting with them; they asked for axes but we did not have any. They also sold us material very well spun from bark, and dyed in several colours, fishing lines and cords, mother-of-pearl fishing hooks, clubs, spears, bows and

arrows, all made with the greatest skill.

At 8 o'clock we noticed double canoes coming towards us from the north-west of the island. They carried 80 to 100 persons. One of them came up at the stern and a native carrying the end of a rope 4 to 5 inches thick, made out of cocoa-nut fibre, dived into the sea and with outstanding dexterity attached it to the chains of our rudder. I called out to him to cast off the mooring rope, but the order had to come from the chieftain. The bartering followed all day long. At the various anchorages we were obliged to make we lost one anchor, and another was bent. We sailed towards the north-east. After having covered three leagues, we noticed a large number of small islands, surrounded by breakers. We came back on our course between Annamouka and the first island we saw upon leaving our mooring. During the night we tacked every two hours. The inhabitants of Annamouka, realising the danger should we run into the breakers lighted a huge fire on the beach for us to use as a guide. On the whole we can only but praise them.

During daylight on the 14th we sailed the same direction as on the previous day, hoping to find a passage at the north of the archipelago. At seven o'clock we went past a small island that I had named the day before, Porte-du-Labyrinthe, quite convinced that, after having passed it, we would find ourselves once again in the open sea and away from a shelf of reefs that were only half a mile to the east. At mid-day I discovered, to my great astonishment, 26 islands spread all over the horizon.

This new portion of the archipelago was sheltered from the south-west, south-east, and the north, by a chain of reefs, on which the sea was breaking very heavily. The belt they formed on the three quarters of the horizon was dotted with rocks, some a few feet under water and others above. We did not give up hope of finding a passage, and continued towards the north east between two reefs. Our efforts were fruitless, and we turned back south.

At mid-day, we were approached by several canoes, amongst which was a double one holding 80 to 100 men and women, carrying fruit of all kinds. The Chief gave us a pig weighing 50 lbs for some scissors and knives, with which he appeared to be very satisfied. One of our men deserted in one of the canoes. He most probably gave in to the hospitality and also perhaps to the attraction of the women, of whom none appeared to be cruel. At 6 o'clock that night we found ourselves between Mongo-Lahy and another island to the south of it. We passed this one to the south east, and the end of a reef lying to the east. The reef south west of Mongo-Lahy was on our north-west and Mongo-Lahy to the north. The distance between the two islands and the reefs was approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ leagues. On the 15th, after a very stormy night, we could see at a short distance through the scud the reef south west of Mongo-Lahy, that we had passed the night before to the north north-west. We were very pleased to have passed it, thanks to the energy and good manoeuvring of the crew. It was just in time as a violent storm struck us a few moments later. At 8 o'clock, after having come back from the west to the south we followed a long reef on to the west.

At 2 o'clock, a flat island, of medium size showed up in the south, as well as a much bigger in the south west, the latter was Tonga Taboo, or Amsterdam. A very long chain of reefs seemed to stretch to the north north-west. At 4.30. Ea-oo-Wee, or Middleburgh, appeared to the south a quarter south-east. This latter is higher than the others, but not as long as Tonga-Taboo. The 16th we passed Ea-oo-Wee to the south and Tonga-Taboo on the west a quarter south west. Several canoes left this island and came towards the ship. They sold us various objects, and especially fine pearls. At mid-day we stopped to await some other canoes coming from Tonga-Taboo, one of the Chiefs most energetically requested us to anchor, but we were in a hurry to get away from the banks and the rocks which are scattered throughout these waters, and we were obliged to refuse with much regret. Before we left he wanted to give us six big fat pigs. In order that we should not remain indebted we gave him two axes, knives, scissors, nails, a borer and other small articles, this munificence greatly pleased him.

Leaving Port Jackson, Mr Dorr had hidden on board a few convicts; five of them left us furtively to go and establish themselves at Ea-oo-Wee.

The climate of this archipelago is one of the most wonderful of this earth.

As I have already said, during our stay the decks were absolutely laden with fruits of all kinds, notable for their shapes and their quality. From afar the land appears to be covered with

trees. These tufted trees stand majestically over the cocoanut palms along the coast line, and seem to be placed there to protect the latter against the winds coming from the ocean. On the island of Ea-oo-Wee there are vast plains covered with hedges and very well cultivated. This island is the larger of the three. The islands of Annamouka and Tonga-Taboo are exceedingly low. The cocoanut trees that surround them do not allow you to see into the interior. They may be the same as the island of Ea-oo-Wee.

The natives are very plump and clean looking, which is a good sign of their temperate ways. They appear to be very sweet ~~kind~~ ~~hearted~~ natured. In spite of the small disagreements they had amongst themselves and even sometimes with us, their smiles never seemed to leave their lips. The women, that is to say, the ones we saw, did not appear to possess the slightest degree of modesty, and gave themselves to the first person who happened to pass by.

The Indians who came on board examined everything attentively. They didn't know how to express their surprise or their admiration. We reproached them for their tendency to steal. I must say for them that, though we watched them very carefully, we did not once come across the slightest sign of larceny.

Their weapons and their canoes are most artfully worked, and the finish is added to by the solidity. We were all the more surprised at their crafts as they only had the most imperfect tools. Their weapons consisted of bows and arrows of which the points are hardened by fire, or else covered with sharp stone or fish bones. Their clubs and their spears are sculptured with art and very agreeable to the sight.

I noticed that many of them had one or two joints missing on their small fingers. They made me understand that at the death of a parent or a chieftain, they show their grief by taking off their small finger.

The huts are made out of wooden stakes; they are closed and covered with palm leaves.

In the three islands of Annamouka, Tonga-Taboo, and Ea-oo-Wee, the populations seems quite considerable. If I can find an ~~op~~ opinion on the number of canoes that surrounded us all the time, and the crowds we could see on the beaches, I think I can say 25,000, unless a part of them belonged to the surrounding islands.

The navigators who are drawn either by curiosity or need, would be wise to give preference to the Island of Ea-oo-Wee. There, for a few iron-made articles, one can obtain provisions in abundance. The coast is healthy everywhere. In stormy weather one has advantage over the elements by going south, east or west, without having to worry about the rocks as is the case with the ~~ot~~ other islands. I speak knowingly in the matter, as we crossed this archipelago in every direction.

On the night of the 16th we left the Friendly Islands, and on the 22nd at mid-day we passed Savage Island to the north west, at a distance of 6 to 7 leagues. The latitude was $19^{\circ} 24'$, and the longitude $190^{\circ} 45'$ which corresponded exactly with our position, compared to the place that was assigned to it on the Map made by Cook. It seemed to me to be long, flat and wooded. We did not see one canoe. On the 29th at 9 p.m. the observations showed

192° 49' 50" longitude and 14° 46' latitude which placed us at about 45 leagues distant from Isle of Opoun, one of the islands of the Navigators' Archipelago. The 30th at 8 o'clock our longitude was 193° 23' 50" and latitude 13° 40' which placed us at 50 leagues approximately north east of the most western island of the Navigator Archipelago, discovered by Bougainville. On the morning of the 31st, we saw several birds. One of them, flying towards the west, was the colour and size and even resembled the ~~wild~~ wild duck.

On the 3rd April, at about 3 in the afternoon, sailing north west with the wind from the north east, we noticed, in the north-west, a quarter north, on our port bow a small island about 5 leagues away, and a little further along two others of about the same size. At 7 o'clock we were at about 2 miles from the first, and could see many cocoanut palms.

At 8 a.m. on the 4th we sailed close in shore and saw two men following us on foot; others appeared on hillocks, and under trees, waving mats and pieces of material. Taking this as a sign^{al} to go on shore; we went to the lee of the island, steering east, 5° south. A wide bay opened up before us formed by a shelf of coral stretching in a circular form from one island to another. Although the water was calm, not one canoe was to be seen. Four men and myself, accompanied by Mr Muir, our passenger from Port Jackson, entered the ship's boat. I directed it into a village that we had seen through the trees. As we rowed in shore the natives

went down to the spot at which we would probably land. We were, however, suddenly stopped by a coral bank covered by not more than a foot and a half of water, and less in some parts.

I lefted our oars, and by signs enticed the natives to come towards us; they remained for a long time undecided. However, six of them came armed with spears and clubs, but at a short distance away five of them stopped, and the sixth, holding a club in one hand and a branch of cocoanut palm in the other, came as far as the edge of the coral shelf. Supposing the branch was an hospitable sign I got out of the boat with Mr Muir, and stood on the coral ledge. My sailors were ready to fire at the slightest sign, and I went towards the Indians, presenting them with the branch that we had been presented with, and extending the other hand as a sign of goodwill. They did not understand me or else they did not understand my gesture. I showed them Bananas, oranges, trying to explain to them what I wanted, and showing them knives etc. that we were prepared to give in exchange. They looked at them and made signs to show that they did not want them. I cut the cocoanut leaves with the knives and gave them the pieces. This surprised them. They came a little closer and accepted the knives and the pieces of iron. I thought that by this time they were tamed, and showed them my desire to go to the village. But as soon as they understood this meaning, they began screaming and shouting and started standing between ourselves and their huts. They shook their weapons in the air, and pointed to our boats, meaning that we should leave as soon as possible. Mr Muir, imagining that they hadn't quite understood,

started pleading with them in his own way, and tried to point out that we did not have any weapons by throwing up his arms.

The natives thought by this that we wanted to capture them and ran off, only turning around from time to time to see if we were following them.

A little later I again tried to show friendly signs to the natives, but the only reply I received was screams and furious shouts. Mr Muir and I turned towards the boat, and as soon as they saw that we were regaining the ship they dashed to their canoes, but what made them change their minds I do not know, and we continued.

After we had regained the ship, three canoes left the island and came within pistol range. Vainly did we try to make them approach, but neither the scissors nor the pieces of iron could induce them. I again entered the rowing boat and went towards them. Whether by this time they were more assured or not, they waited for me, and received me with goodwill. I exchanged cocoanuts, stone axes, mats ropes, and even the materials they were wearing for our goods. Before they left they showed signs of ~~the~~ their satisfaction and invited us to go ashore.

This incident shows that it is possible to establish friendly relationships with the islanders. It is probable and even certain that they had never seen strangers. They were afraid of our appearance, of the whiteness of our skin, and the shape of our clothes, and they were completely ignorant of our tools and the objects with which we bartered. Everything united to convince us that we had the right to attribute to ourselves the

honour of having discovered three new islands; and in this conviction I gave them the name of Iles de la Loutre, which was the name of our vessel. In order to distinguish them we named the eastern one Peron and Muir, the one in the north Dorr, and the name of Brown was given to the third, after one of our officers. On the 5th April at one o'clock thirty nine minutes and forty three seconds, in sight of, and at two leagues north of the three islands, after three observations from the sun to the moon the longitude was $195^{\circ} 35' 30''$, latitude $10^{\circ} 45'$ which places the group at $195^{\circ} 35' 30''$ longitude east of Greenwich and $10^{\circ} 52'$ south latitude.

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Leaving the Iles de la Loutre on the 5th April, 1796 (and thinking them to be part of the Friendly Archipelago), the 'Otter' passed to the east of the Baxos de Villalobas and sighted the coast of North America (by the entrance to the strait of Juan de Fuca and 2-3 leagues from Cape Flattery) on the 29th May, 1796. *They*

sighted no more Pacific Islands.

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Note by Peron on Muir: Amongst the deportees there was one of whom I shall always keep a very warm memory. Mr Muir, of whom I shall speak more of later on had been condemned with Palmer in England with a few others for having wanted to overthrow the Government. He was an enthusiastic partisan of the French Revolution. He wanted to overthrow the aristocratic form of English Government and produce another on the basis of Liberty and an entire Equality. Mr Muir was a man of great talent.

His unselfishness and his loyalty won my esteem and that of others who knew him in his misfortune.

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Buzacott, Mrs. (wife of Rev. Aaron Buzacott). Reminiscences of the Penrhyn Islands. ML Ms. (undated).

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First page refers to the Wilkes Expedition and to the wreck on Penrhyn of a small trading vessel from California. The crew of this vessel were kindly treated by the natives. "The supercargo and two others afterwards came in a whaling ship to Rarotonga from whom we learnt much about these islanders Some native teachers from Rarotonga were committed to the care of Capt. Morgan of the John Williams in 1853, with instructions to land them if ~~poss~~ possible at Penrhyn Islands with the consent of the people. This he was enabled to do, although with much difficulty, for on his nearing the land great numbers of canoes surrounded the ship, and the natives were so noisy, much more so than he had witnessed at any former heathen island, that it was a long time before he could get them to listen while he explained the object of his visit, which, when they understood, they expressed great pleasure at having Teachers to reside among them, and promised to treat them kindly.

~~It~~ It was a long time before these islands could be again visited. In the meantime reports had reached us that schooners from Tahiti were going there to purchase Pearl Shell, and Pearls, which were found to be in their Lagoon. It was also reported at Aitutaki by a whaler that their crops of Cocoa Nuts had failed, and this being their most staple article of food, both the Natives and Teachers were in a starving state.

In 1857 on one voyage to N.S. Wales, we called in the Mission Ship at Aitutaki where the natives had kindly subscribed a large quantity of Cocoa Nuts to send to them. Capt. Williams took as many as he could stow away,

and on the 17th of Novr. we set sail, and after contending with contrary winds were off Penrhyn Island on the 23rd. [There was a schooner at anchor in the Lagoon -- another had just left for Aitutaki ...]. Many of them looked very thin and haggard We were pleased to see that all the natives who came on board wore clothing, which they had bought from schooners with pearlshell We were able also to give them 600 lbs. of Arrowroot, and a good supply of Fishhooks to meet their wants until the ship comes back about 9 months hence."

Next day ~~at~~ Mr Buzacott and she spent the whole day ashore, and Mr B. and the teachers held a conference on the state of the mission. Many natives had been baptized, many more wanted to be. Their language was very like the Rarotongan, and they were taught in the Rarotongan books. She found 9 girls and 1 boy who could read the Bible without hesitation. The rest could only spell their words. They had learnt one of Dr Watts Catechisms in Rarotongan "We were, too, much pleased to see the females wearing dresses and frocks which the Teachers wives had taught them to make. The womens hair was nicely combed and plaited neatly, forming quite a contrast to what they were when the Teachers first went amongst them. The young people are good looking and all behaved well. They were very desirous to purchase books and to our surprise we received nine dollars from them, doubtless all the money they had. They also offered small pearls, but we were told these were what Traders had refused as being of little value"

There is no fresh water on the island. The land is only 140 fathoms broad, covered with Cocoa Nut Trees which make it very shady and pleasant.

They next day they sailed and made Rakaanga. Here the Teachers brought

them some parcels of sinnet, six wooden bowls, some of them ornamented with pearlshell and six Paddles, and three Dollars, as their subscriptions to the London Missionary Society -- besides, twelve dollars which had been paid for Bibles.

The population was only four hundred, and several of them had professed faith in Christ. Numbers of them could read well, and all were diligent in attending schools and the means of grace. They had been visited by small vessels, and many of the men had been taken away to Fanning Island for about a year each time, to make Coconut oil for the Owners, for which they get paid in clothing at seven dollars per month. When one party is brought back, another is taken, and by this means both those who go and those who remain are supplied with clothing. Teachers who went ashore counted eighty dwelling houses besides the Chapel. Fourteen of the former were lathed ~~in~~ and plastered. The walls of the Chapel were 18 [?] ft. high, 60 ft. long and 40 wide. The floor and seats were all covered with nice matting -- the Pulpit a splendid one, highly decorated with pearlshell inlaid. Tairi told us that an American captain who had touched at the island was so pleased with it, that he said he would give five hundred dollars for it if he had it in the United States.

The dwellings were both airy and clean and covered with mats, and some have Tables, and stools to sit on.

On the 30th they landed at Manihiki, where the examination of the children took place, and gifts for the Society were received. There was a stone Chapel, a stone teacher's house, and the village houses with thatched walls very comfortable for the hot climate The people are very ingenious in making mats and bowls, and here especially, model canoes which they make for sale. They have ~~scarcely~~ scarcely any pearlshell, but they make some

Cocoa Nut Oil, and they have been successful in rearing domestic fowls from those which the teachers brought with them. Vessels touching here get a moderate supply. Our Mate purchased eighty for the use of the ship on this occasion Leaving this interesting group of islands we went next in search of Pukapuka, or Danger Island [MS. ends here].

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Note by Mr Gordon F. Russell

Joe Bird, a colourful character and one of the crew of the brig Chatham wrecked on Penrhyn about 1854 (as recorded by Lamont), was later associated with Tom Charlton, a supercargo type of that period, in a venture at Suwarrow involving a gang of Penrhyn Islanders. Both were murdered by these natives in trouble that developed over Penrhyn women, a Frenchman named (I think) Jules Tirol also being disposed of.

Some time later a number of these Penrhyn Islanders were conveyed to Apia to stand trial before J.C. Williams, British Consul. The interpreter at the trial was the original Williams Marsters, later of Palmerston. I am very interested in securing data on the trial.

Mr Russell also said that Marster~~s~~ went to the Ellice Islands (or Gilberts) as interpreter for some affair in which J.T. Williams was concerned. (The Vaitupu business?).

See letter to G.F. Russell, 15.1.1960, and the note by R.P. Gilson that follows this.

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See preceding Note by Gordon F. Russell

~~memorandum~~

Note by R.P. Gilson, Department of Pacific History.

I have found only fragmentary data on the Suwarrow murders, though a more intensive search might turn up more.

2. Incidentally, Cowan ("Suwarrow Gold") is wrong about the date, which he places in the early 1860s. Bird was alive in 1855, and Tiroi was alleged to have left Swain's Island shortly before Jennings arrived there in ~~1855/1856~~ October, 1856. The murders were reported by Williams late in 1858, quite some time after they were presumed to have occurred.
3. There is also some confusion as to the nationalities of the victims. Though Bird had shipped to the South Seas aboard an American vessel and had allegedly come from Maine, he was generally regarded in Samoa as a British subject. However, he was involved in the Hort-Van Camp affair over the Penrhyn Island pearling and was claimed by Van Camp as an American. According to Williams, Thomas Charlton was American, not British. Tiroi was undisputedly French.
4. I have one statement which alleges that Bird, at the end of his first sojourn at Penrhyn, had been 'deported' by order of some chiefs, who accused him of murder. He was taken off in a Hort's vessel and was supposed to be sent to Sydney for 'trial'. But at Apia VanCamp helped free him. Bird was known in Samoa by the name of Samuel Smith.
5. Between 11 and 14 December, 1858, an ~~if~~ investigation of the murders was made at Apia. The three national interests were represented by J.C. Williams (British Consul), J.C. Dirickson (U.S. Commercial Agent) and Father Dubruel (a French Catholic priest). The proceedings did not, in any sense, constitute a trial - for, quite apart from the consul's lack of magisterial authority over their own or other nationals, Penrhyn and Suwarrow were outside their districts of jurisdiction. I can find no evidence to suggest that Dirickson even submitted a report to the State Department. I have no French data at all. Williams sent a perfunctory despatch to the Foreign Office and a rather longer one to Capt. Loring on the Australian Station. In the latter he put most of the blame on Bird, whom he claimed as British; but he said that a naval investigation should be made. What happened then I do not know, for the only cases of the sort which I have followed up (notably the Fox murder and the 'Ellenita' affair) are those relating directly to Samoa.
6. The U.S. Consular post records might contain records of the investigation left by Dirickson. I found nothing in the British post records besides the above-mentioned despatches. It is possible, but unlikely, that something would be found in the series of miscellaneous British post records which were not microfilmed. According to my notes, nearly all the miscellany is dated post-1870.

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SUWARROW: HANDERSON & MACFARLANE'S DEPOSITION RE

18.4.77. In the Archives of H.B.M. Consulate for Samoa
Record 4, Register No. 927.

Whereas we the undersigned Henderson and Macfarlane natural subjects of Her Majesty Victoria Queen of Great Britain and Ireland and Merchants of Auckland in the Colony of New Zealand having visited the islets of a certain reef situated in Lat. 13° 18 S and Long. 163° 3 W in the South Pacific Ocean called Suwarrow or Souvoroff and found the same uninhabited and waste Know all men by these presents that we the aforesaid Henderson and Macfarlane have taken possession of such islets of the said reef which is represented on the diagram hereunto appended and have established settlements, thereon and have placed to reside thereon persons in our employment and have given notice of such procedure and occupation to Her Majesty's Consul at Samoa and have furthermore through His Excellency Sir Hercules Robinson Governor of Her Majesty's Colony and Province of New South Wales made application to Her said Majesty in the form prescribed for an order of protection in the occupation of the said islets subject to the Royalty Covenants, Conditions and regulations in such case made and provided.

I Certify this deposition was made before me
this 18th day of April 1877

E.A. Liardet
H.M.'s Consul

p.pro. Henderson and
Macfarlane
H.W. Henderson.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and verbatim copy of Register No. 927 in the Archives of Her Britannic Majesty's Consulate at Apia, Samoa, in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this Sixth day of November, 1891 at Apia

T. B. Cusack Smith
H.M.'s Consul.

SUWARROW: APPLICATION FOR LICENSE FROM

J. Brown to Gov, N.S.W. 9.7.79: I have the honor to renew my application of 6th Nov. 1876, made to H.E. Sir Hercules Robinson for a lease of the Souwarrow Is. for the purpose of working guano a reply to which I received dated the 10th Dec. of the same year, requesting me to pay a deposit of £100 and to give references, and that my application would be referred to the Home Government. About this time a report appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald stating that a quarrel had taken place at these islands between two rival Bech-de-mer fishing parties and that one of them affirmed having a lease from the Imperial Govt. I therefore concluded the statement to be correct, and did not follow up my application. From recent information I find the Bech-de-mer station has been abandoned for 12 months past, and that neither of the parties disputing held a lease as stated in the Herald's report. I therefore now renew my application and respectfully beg that your Excellency will forward it home by the next mail and obtain a reply for me by the earliest opportunity.

With regard to the deposit of £100 I will pay that amount immediately Your Excellency informs me of my application being sustained, and to whom the money has to be paid. I beg also to submit as reference my father, Mr. Alexander Brown of the City Iron Works, Pyrmont.

I have &c.
James Brown.

SUWARROW: AFFAIRS IN 1881.

Brown to HC, 10.3.81: I have the honour to acknowledge your Excellency's letter of the 28th ultimo having reference to my application to the Secretary of State for the Colonies for a lease or license to work Guano at the Suwarrow Islands.

In reply I beg to inform your Excellency that since I made the application and last year I paid a personal visit to the above island and to my astonishment found them inhabited by a number of Islanders with their wives and two Europeans who had been there so they informed me some considerable time engaged in Beach de Mer and Pearl Shell fishing and planting Cocoanut trees and that they had about 50000 trees growing, some commencing to bear fruit. I also found many improvements in the shape of dwelling houses, stores &c. and a good stone jetty built at considerable cost and was informed by the Europeans that a vessel from Auckland belonging to a Mr. McFarline paid them periodical visits. Under these circumstances I have no wish to press my application, and with your Excellency's permission I herewith withdraw it and I should like also to add that had I known these islands were inhabited at the time I made the application I would not have done so.

I have &c.

Jas. A. Brown.

ANNEXATION OF MINOR PACIFIC ISLANDS

1881-1901

F.O. 58/259.

Col.O. to F.O., 20.7.91.

--flag hoisted over principal islands in Oct. and Nov. 1888 - not in smaller islands until June or July 1889 /"Cormorant"/

F.O. 58/254.

F.O. minutes on House of Commons inquiry regarding cable-station islands in the Pacific, H.C. to F.O., 17 Feb. 1890.

Minutes: Adm. had written C.O., with copy to F.O., that Pukapuka, Nassau, Palmerston might be acquired re trans-Pacific cable.

--it was thought that Pukapuka and Nassau would be risky, for it was said that both had been bonded as guano islands, and the Adm. said that Nassau had been occupied by an American since 1877

--but W.W. Gill, in letter of 5.11.89, said that Pukapuka's trade was in the hands of Henderson and MacFarland, so it is probable that the U.S. abandoned it.

--therefore, on inquiry, Britain might get Pukapuka.

Nassau: an American, Mr Ellicott, said to be on Nassau as of 1877, said by Adm. that he planted coconuts -but Gil said he planted /Gill planted/ coconuts there in 1863 and that John Williams got supply of nuts there in 1875 - Gill thought that the "present owner" was a native of Devonshire, in which case U.K. might acquire that island too.

--Palmerston was never claimed by another Power - Marsters leased it from HCWP /??/ in 1864 /??/, so Britain may annex

N.B. - see F.O. 58/254 for data on the licensing of guano islands

F.O. 58/233.

C.O. to F.O., 12.7.84.

--Hend. and MacF. alleged to be supplying arms to Marshall islanders - allegation made by Germans -- the authorities in Auckland said they found guns on H & MacF ship only once, threw them overboard -that was on the brig "Ryno", bound for Suwarrow

N.B. - see F.O. 58/233 for report of Comm. Rooke(?) of H.M.S. Miranda on Gilberts, Ellices, etc., of year 1886.

F.O. 58/254.

F.O. to C.O., 1.4.90.

--G.R. Bethell, MP, asked C.O. about annexation of Palmerston; F.O. says the question shouldn't be answered until information is obtained on Pukapuka and Nassau too

N.B. - for anecdotal use only: in a letter from M.B. Best to F.O., re his brother-in-law's imprisonment in Hawaii - "What a blessed thing to be a British subject; it is next to being a loyal subject of King Jesus".

F.O. 58/312 (or F.O. Conf. Print of 5.6.97)

--concerning two people named Ebb /or Ebbs/, born at Penrhyn in 1860-61 of a native woman Punia -they are involved in trouble in Raiatea /N.B. - issue being that of British responsibility for these half-castes following take-over of Penrhyn - RG/

F.O. 58/313

James Morrison and Co. to C.O., 29.5.97 - dated London.

--H. and MacF are active in Marshalls, but hard-pressed by Germans - they have traders in Marshalls named S. Halstead, H. Ohlesen, and Thomas Jack, the latter two also trading for the Germans -

--Germans have 7 trading stations to H & M's 3 - H & M discriminated against by German gov't

C.O. minute: the German regulation is not exceptional, same thing found in British colonies

F.O. 58/111

J.C. Williams to F.O., 2.1.67 - dated Apia

Suwarrew and beche-de-mer: 5 Rarotongan men were induced by an American, John Doggett, master of Schooner Caroline of Melbourne, to go to Suwarrew for a few months to gather beche-de-mer - but instead he came to Tutuila, put them off there, gave them an order on a man whom he knew wouldn't pay - after six weeks the Raro. men came to Wms.

--Doggett defrauded another party of Raro people too, taking beche-de-mer without paying - Wms heard D's vessel was seized at Melb.

C.O. 209/252.

Gov. N.Z. to C.O., 28.9.93.

--in order to decide the case of Penrhyn island people v. Donald and Edenborough the WPHC had to be brought in -- this indicates the anomalous position of the C.I., which seem to be partly under N.Z. protection -- would like to see this question cleared up, as to whether Moss can be made responsible to WPHC

N.B. - this is the Norval case - papers in C.O. 225/43.

C.O. 209/255.

Ass't HCWP to Gov. N.Z. 19.11.95.

--concerning the case between Piltz and Penrhyn people: would like to hold court in Rarotonga and have Moss serve as registrar

--it is understood that N.Z. gov't doesn't want WPHC interference in C.I., but this procedure would not involve any transfer of jurisdiction or of Moss's responsibility

C.O. 209/260.

Gov. N.Z., to C.O., 31.10. 1900. / despatch also in A.1, NZPP, 1901/

--visited Penrhyn, mentions conditions there - Manihiki, Rakahanga, and Suwarrow were presumed to be Brit. Prot'd, except that Manihiki and Rakahanga are listed by C.O. as annexed in 1889. - however the traders there say it was only protected -- nevertheless, the islanders should become part of N.Z. along with the rest -- and Pukapuka should also be considered

C.O. minute on above: will look into Pukapuka question, enquire on island's status from the Adm. -- the only previous pledge made by C.O. re any of the annexed islands was concerning Suwarrow, undertaking to keep the rent at present level (leased to Pacific Islands Co.) -- the other lessees have not been contacted

C.O. 209/262.

C.O. to Gov., 27.4.1901.

--concerning Order in Council re annexation of CI and extension of NZ boundaries

--Suwarrow and Palmerston are now leased, lease of the former transferred to Pac. Isl. Co. -- N.Z. to get the rents, to which Treasury agrees -- HCWP so instructed -- Marsters to be contacted when annexation comes into force

--Aitutaki was annexed earlier

--question of land at Suvarrow to be settled separately with Adm.

--no islands within boundary of O.C. not under U.K. Protection

Gov. N.Z. to C.O., 23.7. 1901

--confirms that N.Z. Gov't will do nothing that would lead to complications over Pukapuka and Nassau

C.O. minute to above: Nassau is the big question.

C.O. 209/263.

Adm. to C.O., 27.2.1901

--the islands N.Z. wants to take over are already under Brit. protection, no question of angering any foreign Power

--Adm doesn't much care who controls the islands, except that some naval comdrs are Dep. Comm. WP

--except in case of Suvarrow: it has good harbor, and if Panama Canal goes in, the island might be useful as a coaling station, in which case it would be better for Brit. gov't to control it outright, saving bother of negotiating later with N.Z.

--so Suvarrow should be excluded from the new boundary extension---Adm hopes that in future negotiations won't get to such an advanced stage before it is consulted!!

C.O. to Adm., 14.3.1901.

Suvarrow: not practical to exclude it - will ask N.Z. gov't to reserve for exclusive Adm. use whatever land Adm. wishes to have there

Adm. to C.O., 26.3.1901.

--Suvarrow is leased by Pac. Isl. Co. and cannot reserve anything; Adm wants to have power to arrange direct with occupiers for its land, and doesn't want to be stalled by colonial gov't -- Adm's experience in past has been that col. gov't cause difficulties and delays

C.O. minute to above: a gov't can take over land for public purposes; N.Z. gov't cannot be by-passed in this matter and the Adm. ought to know it - stick to original proposal to Adm.

ANNEXATION OF MINOR PACIFIC ISLANDS (cont'd)

1881-1901

Adm. to C.O., 2.4.1901

--agrees then, provided that N.Z. gov't will set aside the reserve right now!!

N.B. - N.Z. gov't agreed and Comdr of Aust. Stn. was to be sent to select the land required for coaling dump - R.G.

N.B. - Pacific Islands Co. was really Lever's Pacific Plantations Limited. --R.G.

C.O. 225/7.

H.C. to C.O., 6.4.81.

--James Brown, who applied for guano license for Suwarrow, withdrew application because on visiting island he found "a number of Europeans and Islanders engaged in extensive pearl shell and bech-de-mar fisheries".

H.C. to C.O., 6.4.81.

--Grice, Sumner of Melb applied for guano licence for Henderson island - this outside jurisdiction of HC, so C.O. must consider granting it- G and S the licensees of Malden, have paid rent regularly

H.C. to C.O., 22.11.81.

--Arundel given guano license for Phoenix island -£100 fee per year and to be no British competition - but Crown does not guarantee protection

C.O. minute - HC shouldn't have taken Arundel's word that the island was claimed by no foreign power; case should have been referred to C.O. before license granted

C.O. 225/10.

Adm. to C.O., 4.2.82.

--Phoenix not claimed by another Power /Arundel's licence okeyed/

Adm. to C.O., 15.2.82.

--encloses report of master of H.M.S. Gannet re visit to several Pac. Islands

--at Malden, 28.10.81: a Melb company working there, 100 native laborers

--at Penrhyn, 1.11.81: 4 traders there (2 Brit, 2 Amer) - the "chief men" of the island were concerned about rumors of Freney move on island; they thought they were under Brit prot., but Comdr Bourke told they were independent, - he said they would not be bothered unless they consented to be /!!/

C.O. 225/12 - contains data on European land titles in area under WPHC jurisdiction, and question of registering titles - data on licenses and labor recruiting

C.O. 225/22.

--copy of Comdr Rooke of H.M.S. Miranda to Tryon (Aust Sta), 23.7.86. --- a report on Gilberts, etc.

following notes from above report: Arundel leasing Canton from U.S. for guano.

--he left Sydney Island 10 months before, expect to leave Canton for Baker or Raine Island (letter in Torres Strait) in 4 months; he employs 96 laborers on Canton Island (46 from Niue, 50 from Cooks) --- Arundel to renew lease of Sydney Island with British gov't, to grow coconuts -- a Mr. Ellis is Arundel's representative at Canton Island

C.O. to Arundel, 22.2.86.

--okeys his application for license to grow coconuts on Sydney Island - 21 years at £25 a year

Treasury to C.O., 5.3.86.

--Arundel owes £75 annual fee on license for "Kooria Moorria" Island for guano, even if it is cancelled -- /Arundel had wanted no further action on his application re that island until he had investigated it/

Tres. to C.O., 14.8.86.

--Arundel to get license for coconuts on Caroline and Flint Islands, 21 years at £25 each per year

Treas. to C.O., 10.12.86.

--Arundel asked for rent free extension re K. Moorria island for 3 years, giving him a chance to investigate the place -- but Treas. would like to open question of outside offers for the island

Herbert's minute: Arundel is trustworthy, the rent could be established when Arundel returns to England -- K.M. island is in Arabian sea.

N.B. - more correspondence on K.M. island, Arundel had to pay up on spec.

C.O. 225/26.

Sir J. Ferguson to C.O., 20.7.87.

--asking for H and MacF whether their ownership of Funafuti, Tarawa, Nantouk, Iukinor, Suwarrow, and Christmas will be recognized

C.O. minute: will recognition their occupation of last two, but the first four are not British territory but rather, belong to the inhabitants

C.O. 225/29.

Report by W.J.L. Wharton, Hydrographer, Admiralty, 11.5.88.

Cable station: all of Phoenix under Houlder and Co; H and MacF stns are on Manihiki, Rakahanga, Niue - Suwarrow occupied by H and MacF since 1875 ---- in the Union Island all guano rights bought by Houlders from American Guano Company -- H and MacF have trading station there

Adm. to Col.O., 7.5.88.

--data on annexation of Penrhyn, etc., printed in C.O. paper: Australia No.138, pp.50 ff.

Note - Suwarrow annexed on 22.4.88 - H and MacF had owned it but sold out rights -- taken in connection with Pacific cable route (with was apparently meant to include Jarvis, Union, Phoenix, Washington, and Palmyrs)

--Fanning, Christmas, Penrhyn islands annexed in March 1888.

C.O. 225/35.

W.W. Gill to Mr Trotter, 5.11.89 (presumably Coutts Trotter - letter found its way to the F.O. first)

--says Nassau, Palmerston, Pukapuka haven't come into British hands - should be taken along with the rest of the islands -- all people concerned are sympathetic to Britain

C.O. 225/43.

Copy of Western Pacific, Australia, no. 19502. -- re Norval case

--Norval a vessel that one Harries of D & E seized against a debt of \$2000 which D & E were ordered to pay to Heu of Penrhyn - order made by Judge Tepou of

Rarotonga, to whom the Penrhyn people took the case --- papers deal with conflicting decisions by naval officers in settlement of the case - final settlement in favor of Hau

Anglo-American Claims

Cook Islands

Guano Islands

.....

MANIHIKI AND RAKAHANGA

Rev. Gill to H.E., 22.5.89: Lord Carrington today strongly advised me to write to you as High Commissioner for the South Pacific about a paragraph that appeared in the Sydney papers for the 20th inst. I enclose the slip.

Evidently by "the island of Manahika Rothunga" is meant the island of Manihiki and Rakahanga, lying 26 miles apart, and situated about 500 or 600 miles NNW of Rarotonga. You are aware that the Hervey or Cook Group are now British. Penrhyns is also British. Very recently Britain has annexed Suvarrow's Island. Your Excellency will perceive that Manihiki and Rokahanga lie just between Suvarrow's and Penrhyns. Now Great Britain's avowed reason for taking possession of Suvarrow's and Penrhyn's is to protect the proposed cable between Vancouver's Island and Auckland. Now if the French get possession of these two islands, a wedge is driven between our possessions rendering the holding of Suvarrow's and Penrhyn's valueless.

I have been in the Hervey Group as a missionary of the L.M.S. ever since 1851. I know all the islands/ I am referring to well. The natives justly say "all they possess of civilization and Christianity, they owe to Britain: to Britain alone they look for protection and guidance. They are a quiet, peaceable, industrious intelligent and ingenious people, in intense sympathy with our country. A quantity of shell is found in the lagoon of Manihiki. Rokahanga is covered with coconut palms. The two islands are inhabited by one people; in number about 1,200. Some of our very best teachers in New Guinea are supplied by these islands.

Can you not, in the exercise of your authority as Commissioner, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government accept the proffered sovereignty of these atolls and so save them from the French? I am certain that if these islands are allowed to slip through the fingers of Britain into the hands of France or any other power, it will be a source of lasting regret in the near future.

The cost of Governing would be nil, as they would be most loyal subjects of Her Majesty. The Resident at Rarotonga could easily overlook them.

Can it be true that these islanders may be punished for hoisting the British flag? Would you kindly do what you can to save them and earn the lasting gratitude of

Yours faithfully,
William Wyatt Gill, L.L.D.

P.S. Could you not wire to Downing Street else you will be too late (I fear) as the French are mad at being balked.

MANIHIKI AND RAKAHANGA (contd)

Extract from Sydney Daily Telegraph, May 20, 1889

The French in the Pacific. Protectorates proclaimed. Natives hoist the British flag. (By cable).

Auckland, Sunday. - News from Tahiti to May 1 states that the position at Raiatea is unchanged. The native tribes who objected to French annexation still occupy the hills. The French and native flags are both flying and an armed neutrality is maintained. In consequence of the existing state of affairs great stagnation prevails in trade.

The French warship Daves has visited Runiukara and Rurutu Islands, and the Commander has proclaimed a protectorate. Official accounts state that the king and chiefs of those islands petitioned the Government of Tahiti for a protectorate, but independent reports say that the natives are hostile to the action of the French Government and will probably offer resistance.

The warship Volage visited the island of Manahiki Rothunga. The Captain went ashore and endeavoured to persuade the natives to accept a French protectorate. They refused and hoisted the British flag. The Captain of the Volage then informed them that they had incurred a heavy penalty by hoisting the English ensign without authority. The natives decided to take the risk and the Volage sailed.

MANIHIKI AND RAKAHANGA

HC to SS, no.21 of 16.7.89: transmits correspondence with Rev. Gill re M and R and recommends that the desires of the natives for Br Prot shd be granted. Situated between Suwarrow and Penrhyn, 2 prot is.

Incident re natives hoisting flaghas been reported in the 'Mail' of London 20.5.89.

.....

MANIHIKI AND RAKAHANGA

Secretary to HC (Wilfred Collet) to Rev. W. Wyatt Gill, 16.7.89:

Re reported visit to is of French gunboat 'Volage' and hoisting of British flag by natives HC considers that "strictly speaking such action by the natives was very wrong, though His Excellency is not disposed to think that punishment would be inflicted for an action which, however illegal and unwarranted, was founded upon considerations of high confidence in the benevolence of the Queen's Government."

Re query as to whether HC could not, on behalf of HMG, accept proffered sovereignty, he could so accept provisionally but in fact no such proffer has been made.

.....

Rev. Gill's letter was forwarded to C in C (Rear Admiral Fairfax) who on 31.8.89 replied "I concur with Your Excellency that from the position of these Islands it might ~~be~~ prove advantageous to annex them, and have written to that effect to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty."

.....

PUKAPUKA: REQUEST FOR PROTECTORATE

Rev. W.W.Gill to H.C., 7.1.91: About two months ago I wrote to you advising the annexation of Pukapuka or Danger Island, situated between the Phoenix and Manihiki Groups already British.

Yesterday, by the Mission barque "John Williams", I received the enclosed letter from the king and under-chiefs of Pukapuka requesting the favour of British protection. I know the letter to be genuine and feel quite sure that it expresses the real sentiments of those gentle islanders. I subjoin a literal translation :-

November 12th 1890

This is a brief letter for Gill-the-Second.

May you be preserved by our Lord Jesus the Messiah. Amen!

This is from me the King of Pukapuka, also from the chiefs and under-chiefs, from the elders (of the people) and the deacons. This is the word. Take heed thereto. Write for a British man of war to come and see us to help us by setting up the British flag as a defence to our island. For we hear that the French mean to get possession (of Pukapuka). Besides, our neighbours (i.e. Manihiki, Rakahanga, Suwarrow, &c) have the English flag, whilst we are without it. Let us pray God to take charge of us. This is all. From the King and chiefs of Pukapuka. For Gill-the-Second.

As in the case of Manihiki &c. I would advise a Protectorate only. The natives have their own code of laws (very simple) and a few police paid out of fines. It would be wise perhaps to call at Rarotonga for an interpreter. By all means get the aid of the Rev. J.J.K. Hutchin, whose presence would inspire confidence in the minds of so timid a race as the Pukapuka people.

At the same time may I hope that Nassau and Palmerston (if not already annexed, may not be left out in the cold?)

Anyhow, I have now discharged the duty imposed upon me by the natives of Danger Island. Leaving the result in the hands of yourself - ever known as the friend of the natives,

I have &c.
William Wyatt Gill.

PUKAPUKA

HC to SS, No.5 of 26.1.91: tr translation of a letter to the Rev. Dr Gill from the King and Chiefs of Danger Is expressing desire for Br prot. As lies between already protected islands recommend request and that prot shd include "the whole of the Islets (Nassau & others) forming this small group."

.....

PUKAPUKA AND NASSAU

Sec to HC (Collet) to Rev. W.W. Gill, 28.1.91: Petition of Natives of Danger Island for British protection will be transmitted to H.M. Govt with rec for favourable consideration.

Palmerston already forms part of HM Dominions and HC will support your suggestion for annexation of Nassau Island.

.....

NASSAU: HISTORY OF

Rev. Gill to HC, 17.2.91. (2) : I am afraid that in my note of this morning I omitted to say that in my day this Captain Ellacott resided at Borabora (one of the Leeward Islands recently annexed by the French) and was one of our regular traders in the Hervey Group. He always came to see me at the Mission House.

Yours faithfully,
William Wyatt Gill.

(1) I beg to acknowledge the receipt of yours of January and Feb. ult., and would thankfully express the pleasure I feel at the kindly way in which you have received the request of the natives of Danger Island.

In regard to Nassau Island, I think it was at the end of 1862 that (in conjunction with the Captain of the Mission barque "John Williams") I spent a day ashore there and planted a number of cocoanuts in the hope of assisting shipwrecked mariners in the years to come. We cut the name of the vessel and the date of our visit on a couple of trees. We saw no signs whatever of human occupancy except the hut built by 7 Manihiki natives driven out of their course at sea. I afterwards met these same natives in their own homes and heard the story of their privations. In 1862 a single cocoanut tree stood on the island, grown evidently from a nut carried thither by the waves.

In 1875 the present master of the Mission barque "John Williams" touched at Nassau and obtained a good supply of cocoanuts, the fruit of those planted 13 years previously. At this date not a creature was resident on the island which was still covered with the primeval forests. 100 nuts were planted by the Missionary Captain.

In 1881 I again visited Nassau and found that Captain Ellacott had taken possession of it. He had left 4 natives of Danger Island ashore in charge of a white man to plant Nassau. The central portion of the forest had been cleared away to make room for 14,000 young cocoanut trees. The idea was to manufacture copra. I believe that is about the present state of things.

Captain Ellacott once told me that he is a native of North Devon, but had become a naturalised American. He offered not long ago to lease or sell (rather) the island to Mr. John Arundel; not being able to make much out of Nassau. He resided (when I was at Rarotonga) at Borabora and was violently opposed to French annexation of the Leeward Islands. So that I feel sure he would be glad of the English flag. I feel sure that the island is not held by lease from any civilized Government, but is merely occupied by him in virtue of his improvements. If Danger Island becomes British, it would be to the Captain's interest to accept the British flag, as he obtains labour solely from Danger Island. Certainly both Nassau and Danger Islands should be annexed. I think no difficulty would be experienced. Only begin with the greater, i.e. Danger Island; then the lesser (Nassau) must go with it. Such at least is my notion.

Pardon the prolixity of an old man. I remain, my dear

Sir John,

Yours faithfully,

William Wyatt Gill.

RAKAHANGA

Confidential

William Wyatt Gill to HC, 16.1.93: I first landed Rakahanga 14.4.63. King Iese said that his father was king when the Rev. William Gill visited Manihiki in Nov. 1852 and advised that part of the people should live permanently on M in order to prevent the fearful loss of life resulting from the migration of the entire population in canoes. Of course father could mean uncle.

Paupe "is the man who accepted the flag of France and went to Tukao and Rakahanga in a French war-ship to force the natives of those islands to accept French ~~sovereignty~~ supremacy. Your prompt action alone saved those islanders from the hateful yoke of France.

My own impression is that behind ~~T~~ Paupe are the Jesuit fathers ever anxious to break up the peace that for more than 40 years has prevailed in those interesting islands, for the furtherance of their own ends.

Putaura, the old teacher on Tukao, who ran up the British ensign and faced the French captain, is now on his native island, Rarotonga."

.....

(Polynesian Society Journal, vol. 42, no.168, pp.300-307, 1 pl., Dec.1933.)

NOTES ON THE VEGETATION OF PENRHYN AND MANIHIKI ISLANDS

By A. Murray Linton,
Lands and Survey Department.

Toward the end of my survey work on Penrhyn and Manihiki for the Cook Islands Department, I received a request for plant specimens from Miss L. M. Cranwell of the Auckland Institute and Museum. I was able to collect on Manihiki, and a classified list has since been published in the Records of the Auckland Museum. The following notes on the plants and their native uses are the result of observations on both islands.

The vegetation on the islands is very much on the primitive state and consists, at a rough estimate, of about 28 different species of native plants and a considerable number of imported varieties. Coconuts account for about ninety per cent. of the total vegetation and pandanus and the various timber trees for the remainder.

Cultivation, as the term is understood in New Zealand, is unknown among the natives and the only work carried on in this direction has been the introduction of various fruit trees and flowering shrubs. As far as both Penrhyn and Manihiki are concerned there is no soil that would support vegetation other than native. One trader on Penrhyn who had a small vegetable garden informed me that it had cost him something like 10/- per cubic foot, so that it was not very great in extent. Soil for such purposes as growing vegetables is carried from Rarotonga by trading schooner.

Breadfruit trees imported from Rarotonga do fairly well if given a little soil, to start off, and then carefully tended and supplied with leaf-mould, etc. Bananas, also carried from Rarotonga and Samoa, grow indifferently, while pawpaws probably give a better return than any other fruit for the trouble of establishing them.

Vegetables in the imported gardens thrive if protected from the sun, but the kumara, though the tops grow strongly and are used by the natives as a vegetable, fails to produce any tubers. Mangoes have recently been

tried on the islands, but, though growing strongly, have produced no fruit. Though I saw but one fig tree on the islands, it was doing well, and bearing fruit of excellent quality. Oranges and lemons for some reasons do not grow at all well. Tomatoes grow fairly well if sheltered from the sun and well manured. A certain amount of guano is available on most of the islands but as it prevents the coconuts from growing the natives consider that it has no value as a plant-food and do not use it. While on the subject of guano it may be well to mention the fact that large colonies of birds inhabit certain small islands or motu on the atoll. When these birds take possession of a motu the increasing supply of guano gradually overcomes the coconuts and in a few years they ~~gradually~~ disappear entirely, being replaced by such trees as puka, fano, and taumano.

Native flowering trees are few in Penrhyn and Manihiki, but imported varieties are fairly numerous. These are chiefly confined to the various kinds of hibiscus, bougainvillea, native coffee plant; and in some places flowers are to be seen such as one sees in the average New Zealand garden - stocks, cosmos, pansies, peonies - even roses may be seen from time to time.

As mentioned, the plants referred to in the following notes were collected on Manihiki and are almost the same as those on Penrhyn, though on the latter island there is now very little available timber - tou, fano, tamanu, nenu are almost if not quite extinct.

1. Tou - Cordia subcordata Lam.

By far the most important and most serviceable wood is tou, which is a lasting and easily-worked ~~tree~~ wood of good strength and medium hardness. Used in boats and for building purposes it will last for more than fifty years, and by reason of its great usefulness it has been much used in the past and is fairly scarce. Te Rangī Hīroa states that from it war-clubs (koare) are made. Trees average 50 feet to 80 feet high and 1 foot 6 inches to 2 feet in diameter.

2. Fano - Guettarda speciosa L.

Next in order of usefulness as a timber is fano which like tou is now becoming fairly scarce. It is a little harder than tou and slightly more brittle, but it is good and lasting timber. The trees vary considerably in size, but an average log would be about fifteen inches thick and the trees are approximately sixty feet high. Both tou and fano are to be found in the larger motua and generally occupy the interior of the islands. The leaves of the fano, which sometimes reach a length of fifteen inches and a proportionate width, are used by the natives as plates.

3. Tamama - Calophyllum inophyllum L.

This wood is, as far as I know, not now to be obtained on Penrhyn. It is a heavy hard wood and is not much used for building purposes. It is generally used by the natives when in the young state for handles for handles for fishing nets, spears, and the like. It has great strength and seldom breaks under strain. It is confined more or less to the interior of the islands and grows in trees up to about a foot in thickness and fifty feet in height.

4. Nenu - Morinda citrifolia L.

As a timber this wood is not much used. It appears to have poor lasting qualities and the only use the natives had for it was as a medicine. The leaves are used much the same way as a cabbage-leaf is sometimes used in this country, i.e., applied to an aching part and "ironed" on with a hot stone. The root is also used as a poultice. Torn up from the ground the bark is scraped from the root, mashed up and applied to wounds, etc. The distribution of the tree is fairly general in the interior of the islands.

5. Oronga - Pipturus velutinus Wedd.

As far as I could gather, this tree is confined to one or two motua on Manihiki. It is used by the natives to manufacture fishing-lines. The bark is scraped or rather peeled from the tree and the fiber is then removed and twisted into fishing-lines and ropes. The trees do not attain a very

great height, the specimens that I observed being little more than 15 or 20 feet high.

6. Tauhumu - Tournefortia argentea L.f.

This tree, which attains a maximum height of about 20 feet, is confined to the edges of the islands bordering on the lagoons and the open sea. It is used by the natives for firewood and for making boat-knees and ribs. The tree is very crooked in its growth and when boat knees or ribs are required the native takes a pattern and selects a tree with the necessary curve in the trunk. In this way he can cut his boat with primitive tools and a minimum of labor.

7. Ngangae * (ironwood) Pemphis acidula Forst.

* Spelt ngangie by Te Rangī Hiroa (Dr. P.H.Buck) when he mentions the tree in Manihiki and Rakahanga, p.16.

The wood is very much used as firewood and in fact is one of the most useful woods on the islands. Its distribution is fairly general in open and exposed places and it appears to be extremely hardy, taking root where all other varieties appear to succumb to exposure or lack of soil. By reason of its weight and extreme hardness it was in former years of great value for the manufacture of clubs, spears, and other weapons of offense. Nowadays it is used for boat-keels and knees, coconut huskers, and pounders for washing clothes. The trees seldom reach a height of twenty feet and are crooked and exceptionally scrubby. The wood is quite as hard or even harder than any our New Zealand woods such as black maire or ratu. The tree has a small white flower and a small thick leaf about half an inch long and 1/4 inch wide.

8. Miro - Thespesia populnea Soland.

There is some doubt among the natives as to whether this wood is native or whether it was introduced by the early traders or missionaries. It grows to a height of about sixty feet and is chiefly used for making canoes.

9. Ngahu - Scaevola frutescens (Mill.) Krause
(S. Koenigii Vahl.)

This occurs in several diverse growth-forms, but all appear to belong to one species. In some cases it is scandent, in others it grows like an ordinary shrub to a height of ten feet. Among the natives this was a very important shrub. The bark ~~was~~ ^{when} scraped off ~~was~~ ^{was} used to make calum for caulking canoes. The plant is fairly general in its distribution, but grows chiefly along the edges of the lagoon.

10. Puka - Pisonia inermis Forst.

This is about the most persistent tree I have ever known and at the same time the softest wood. A branch six inches thick will scarcely bear the weight of a man. If a tree be felled the stump will immediately commence to grow again and the fallen trunk will take root at every point where it touches the ground. Twigs broken off and thrown down will also take root. The chief use of the tree is as a green food for pigs. The wood is so soft that pigs will demolish the entire branch up to three inches thick as well as the leaves which they appear to relish. In distribution the tree is very general and reaches a height of about 80 feet and a diameter of about 8 feet.

11. Fara - Pandanus tectorius Sol. var.
(P. odoratissimus L.f.)

Next after the coconut this is the most useful tree in the islands. The wood which is exceptionally hard is used for the framework of houses, and the root is split up to make laths for the "venetian-blinds" of which the walls are made. The leaf makes a much more secure and durable roof than the coconut. The fruit is scraped for its sweet syrup which is used for cooking, and the nut is also eaten. The leaves are dried in the sun and used to make mats, hats, fans, materials for clothing, and boat-sails; in fact the uses to which the natives put the trees are almost innumerable.

12. Coconut - Cocos nucifera L.

It is solely because of the coconut that the islands are habitable. in the present periods of depression the natives live almost entirely on coconut and fish, occasionally eked out with a little flour, but more often unadulterated. The wood of the coconut is used for all manner of building purposes as well as for the simple furnishings found in the native houses. Canoes, sailing-boats, and paddles are also made from the wood; house-roofs from the foliage or nikau as the natives call it, and also mats for sleeping purposes. The leaf of the young nikau is prepared and the fiber removed for making hats, mats, baskets, fans, clothing-materials, and sails. The coarse fiber from the central midrib of the nikau is used for making rough ropes, while for finer work such as boat-tackle the sennit or fiber from the coconut-husk is used. The soft pithy center at the crown of the foliage is used as a vegetable in much the same way as the New Zealand Maori prepares his nikau. The water from the green nut is almost the only beverage on the island, and from the mature nut is obtained the copra which the natives trade for a few simple tools and, occasionally, clothes.

The trading value of copra during my stay in the islands was less than 50/- per ton of 4,500 nuts. Much of the land was then under raui (ra'ui, Maori rahui) - a system originally instituted to prevent the theft of coconuts, at a time when they were about six times as high in value. Its continuance in Manihiki and Rakahanga imposed a burden on the people. They had no money to buy European food and they were prohibited from taking freely what nature had provided on the islands. Oil ~~was~~ is also obtained from the mature nuts, and is used for lubrication, illumination, and medicinal purposes. In all, as I have said, the coconut more than anything else makes life possible on the islands.

In some places the ownership of a single coconut-tree has been the cause of a dispute of many years standing. If the tree in question dies another is planted in its place so that the dispute may continue.

13. Purau - ? Hibiscus tiliaceus L.

This is a soft light wood and is used by the natives for canoe-outriggers and spear-handles where lightness is of paramount importance. The purau appears to be a native of most of the islands of the Pacific. Unfortunately no specimens were secured. Miss L. M. Cranwell suggests that it is Hibiscus tiliaceus L.

In reference to the smaller shrubs and weeds, I should like to point out that the native word naunau refers to almost any weed or grass not otherwise identified by the natives. Of these weeds a few are edible:

14. Naunau-kawa - Lepidium piscidium Forst.

This weed is eaten by the natives as a green food either raw or boiled. In its native state it tastes and smells very much like water-cress. It grows in small bushy plants about 18 inches high. Its distribution is general.

15. Katuri - ? Boerhaavia.

A small ~~scrambling~~ creeper-like plant; this is used by the natives cooked as a vegetable. It runs along the ground and spreads quickly. It may be found almost anywhere on the islands.

The remainder of the plants grouped under the heading naunau are fairly general throughout the island. As far as I could ascertain there were no particular uses to which the natives put any of these plants. They are: (16) Fleurya interrupta Gaud.; (17) Triumfetta procumbens Forst.; (18) Lepturus repens R.Br.; (19) Frimbristylis cymosa R.Br. var. subcapitata C.B. Clarke; (20) a species of Calonyction; and (28) Psilotum nudum (L.) Griesb., better known in New Zealand under its older name P. triquetrum Sw.

Specimens of a moss (rimu) may be collected all over the island. It may be found in any quantity round the roots of almost any coconut-tree, on the ground and on decaying logs. As far as I could see all the moss was of one kind. It has been identified as Trichosteleum rhinophyllum (C.M.) Jaeg.

Two distinct types of ferns are found on the island (maire - Polypodium scolopendris Burm., and raukotahu - Asplenium nidus L., the birds-nest fern). Maire grows almost anywhere on the island and generally speaking each frond springs from a separate root.

The fern raukotahu is occasionally used by the natives, when camping out, for making beds. A good-sized specimen would have leaves four feet long and six inches wide. Its distribution is general.

As with their weeds the natives describe all manner of sea-growth, but one, as luna. There do not appear to be many varieties of sea-weed. The "sea-moss" (Bryopsis Harveyana J.Ag.) has a particularly odious habit. During October and November it becomes detached from the rocks where it grows and after floating about the lagoon becomes cast up on the beach. Decomposition sets in and the stench becomes almost unbearable. This state of affairs lasts for a month or six weeks and then the deposits cease, but I have had few experiences worse than being camped on a foreshore where large quantities of this moss were thrown up and decomposed in a temperature of about 94 degrees in the shade.

The remainder of the plants were seaweeds, one being green and lime-secreting, Halimeda incrassata Lam. A third green, Caulerpa cupressoides (Vahl) C.Ag. var. mamillosa (Mont.) van Bosse, and a handsome brown seaweed, Turbinaria ornata (Turn.) J.Ag., complete my list. The marine growth ngahu does not appear to be a seaweed; it is a sponge-like growth in the lagoon and because of its rough surface is used as a sandpaper for finishing canoes, etc. For this use it is very suitable indeed and as there is a huge quantity of it the supply is plentiful for all needs.

REFERENCES

1. Cranwell, L.M., 1933. "Flora of Manihiki," Records, Auckland Institute Museum, vol.1, p.171.
2. Te Rangī Hiron, 1932. "Ethnology of Manihiki and Rakahanga," B.P.Bishop Museum Bulletin 99.

PENRHYN

Petition of Hau to HC, rec'd 12.9.93, states "The British Resident at Rarotonga tells us that he has nothing to do with Penrhyn and that it is to Your Excellency only we can apply on this matter and your Petitioners will ever pray etc."

Br. R., Rarotonga, (Moss) to Gov., NZ., dated 8.9.93, encl in Gov., NZ, to HCWP of 30.9.93:

"... the question having been raised as to the propriety of the Penrhyn Schooner 'Omoka' owned by the natives of that island, being registered in the Cook Islands and using the Federal Flag, the Cook Island Government decided to withdraw the provisional register given to that vessel.

Application was then made to me to give a provisional letter in order that the schooner might proceed to Penrhyn where she is to undergo a thorough overhaul and repair. Strictly speaking she seems entitled only to use the British Flag but this would entail her going to New Zealand or to Fiji, and being placed under the Regulations of the Merchant Shipping Act - a great hardship if not total prohibition to the ownership by these natives of any vessel.

Under the circumstances I took the responsibility of giving a sailing letter for the voyage from Rarotonga to Penrhyn. The vessel to use the Penrhyn Flag, to carry no passengers without a special permit from me in such case, and to have a boat on board capable of carrying 12 persons and their provision in case of need. She is also to carry no intoxicating liquor of any kind and is uninsured.

The sailing letter is to stand good for her return from Penrhyn to Rarotonga or from Penrhyn to Tahiti.

In the meantime Your Excellency may perhaps think it desirable to inform the High Commissioner within whose jurisdiction Penrhyn is now placed."

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THE PENRHYN HAU

Special Judicial Commissioner John Ross to Sec, WPHC, 27.9.93:

Court opened at Avarua 1.8.93 - Moss attorney of Hau (or native government) against Donald and Edenborough for 3600 dollars alleged property of plaintiffs and which had been paid to firm. 2nd claim for 300 dollars interest. D & E produced finding of Court held at Penrhyn by Capt May of 'Hyacinth' pleading ouster of jurisdiction. Objection over-ruled. Exham att for def.

2 other actions (1) D & E v Pen Hau for \$1567 value of goods sold and delivered and Mrs Charlotte Donald v Pen Hau for 2700 dols for detention of Norval and imprisonment of master and crew.

Judgements given on 18th (1) for plaintiffs for 3600 and costs £20. (2) Acts of Harries tainted on several occasions - undoubtedly agent of D & E throughout and strove earnestly to retain and procure money of Pen natives irrespective of their rights. Circumstances of alleged contract unsatisfactory throughout. Harries says contract was made on verbal message of Panapa. Wishes then to make Court believe that transaction amounting to £600 and involving the payment of the hardly ~~earned~~ gained earnings of entire community was completed in this offhand manner. On strength of comm from Panapa H goes to NZ and arranges purchase of Norval. Least he shd have done was to meet people of Omoka in solemn conclave & ascertained views regarding purchase. Sets himself up as agent of Omoka and yet furnishes no accounts to body at Sept meeting. Induced people to entrust him with \$2056 and shell valued at \$771 on fraudulent misrepresentation that vessel was then in Rarotonga.

H then 'gets up' document purporting to be an agreement between him and Hau for purchase of vessel - antedates to 4th June and signed by Panapa who was certainly either cajoled or terrorised into putting his name to it.

Action D & E v Pen Hau judgement for plaintiffs. In 3rd Mrs G. Donald shown that out of 4000 dollars for vessel only \$370 left unpaid when H left Raro; that he had heard that vessel might be seized at Pen - yet he sailed there and it was seized. Judgement for \$400 as damages for detention of vessel, master & crew being left to pursue their remedy personally for false imprisonment.

Court refused to consider previous payment of 1445 dols by Hau to H under finding of Capt May. Thus \$1632 due to Hau under 3 judgements; paid by D & E to Ross, who paid it to Hau on 24 Aug.

Ross went to Pen and admonished Akava or Head of Hau against seizing vessels and directed to refer to Raro when disputes with Europeans arose who, as nearest Br officer, wld advise untill comm with HC possible.

Found that 1445 dols paid to H by Hau on order Capt May had been advanced by Dexter (Fr citizen) who happened to be at Pen at time.

Condition - D shd have all rights of fishing pearlshell in Pen lagoon with 2 diving machines for 2 years on apyment of royalty to Hau of \$100 a ton until 31 Dec and thereafter 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ cts a lb. Never before fished with machines. No restrictions on size of shell. Hard on people - no doubt D will watch his own interests.

Finding of Capt May illegal and agreement wld not have been made if May had not intervened, and yet the wrong done to the natives seems to be one without a remedy.

At Rakahanga Ariki (Hd of govt) petitioned re departure of petty chief Taupe ~~from~~ of Rak from Manihiki. Asked that he shd not return because (1) he was constantly intriguing to aggrandize himself (2) he had caused very serious resentment among his fellows by proceeding to Tahiti and influencing Fr govt to send warship to annex both is, frustrated by teacher hoisting Br flag (3) he had violently assaulted Ariki.

Dexter's Christian name George.

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PENRHYN: NORVAL CASE

H.C. to Capt. May, 20.10.93: I have received your note of the 16th July written from Tahiti relative to the proceedings lately taken by you at Penrhyn Island in connection with the detention there of the schooner "Norval" of Auckland and am obliged to you for the information it contains.

It is not clear to me from your note whether you visited Penrhyn with the intention of enquiring into the "Norval" case, or whether cruising in the neighbourhood you called at the island in the ordinary way.

But be this as it may I am sure you will not mind my expressing regret - particularly on the part of the islanders that you held a Court - though under what legal authority the Court was held I have been unable to ascertain - and both released the ship and enforced a fine upon the natives, not only heavy in itself - but probably ruinous to them in its consequences.

Shortly after you left the island the case was tried by one of the Judicial Commissioner's for the Western Pacific with all the necessary documentary evidence and all necessary witnesses present before the Court. Judgment was given for the islanders who unquestionably had been grossly defrauded by Mr. Marries and others interested in the "Norval".

I greatly regret the occurrence of this affair for I am fully satisfied that you acted in what you regarded as the necessities of justice - though, as already said, I cannot ascertain upon what authority you intervened judicially between British subjects, and heavy pecuniary damages, and also deprived them of the security they held for the recovery of several hundreds of pounds, obtained from them by fraudulent proceedings.

I am now transmitting full report of the case so far as the H.C.'s Court is cognisant of it to H.M.'s Government, and will, of course, not fail to inform the Secretary of State of your view of the subject as communicated to me in your note under reply.

I have &c.

John B. Thurston.

PENRHYN FLAG

Special J.C. Ross to Sec., W.P.H.C. on 24.10.93: The question of a commercial flag for the people of Omoka, Penrhyn was much discussed while I was at Rarotonga, the Cook Island Government and the Admiral of the Australian station being interested in it. The people of Omoka, Penrhyn bought a schooner from a Captain Pilz an American trader resident at Rarotonga, and a provisional certificate of registry was granted to the vessel last year by the local collector of customs, whereupon the flag of the Federation was hoisted on it.

The vessel proceeded to Tahiti and the natives on board expressed great dissatisfaction to the British Consul that they were not allowed to fly the Union Jack or their own flag. The requirements of the French authorities are very strict that all vessels shall carry flags. The British Consul referred the grievance of the Penrhyn Islanders to the Foreign Office and instructions were given to him (a copy of which was sent to Lieutenant Commander Bain by the Admiral) that the Union Jack might not be flown, but that the red ensign might be used if the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act were followed by the owners of the vessel. The registration of the schooner under the Merchant Shipping Act being impracticable for the reasons that the vessel was unseaworthy, and that her Master was unqualified, Lieut. Comm. Bain informed the head of the Omoka Govt. that he might fly the Penrhyn Island flag.

3. I found in the possession of the chief of Penrhyn a notebook containing in manuscript what purported to be a rude criminal code of laws in the Maori and English languages. This compilation probably owes its origin in part to the influence of the Missionaries of the London Missionary Society. It was dated 7th June, 1888. A similar code was or is in force in Rarotonga and is given in extenso in one of Mr. Moss's reports. It is probable that these codes are enforced very fitfully and are regarded more as a means of raising revenue than of repressing crime. The only provision referring especially to Europeans is the following:- "Should a white resident be the cause of constant trouble and disturbances and land drink on the island he will be expelled from the land". This law might at some time result in ill feeling between the natives and some designing foreigner who was desirous to levy blackmail on the islanders and I told the chief in no case to enforce it without a previous reference to the British Resident.

NASSAU ISLAND

Marrickville, Sydney, November 6, 1893.

My dear Sir John,

The enclosed slip appeared in the "Daily Telegraph" of Saturday the 4th instant.

My breath was taken away by the atrocious lie that "John E. Ellicott discovered it 15 years ago".

In my book (2 Jottings from the Pacific, published in 1885) there is a short chapter about Nassau Island (pp.28-32), entitled a "Day on a desolate Island". This desolate island is the very one in question. I am prepared to swear to the correctness of the statements contained in the chapter III about Nassau Island, should you desire me to do so. In our visit to Nassau in 1862, ~~there~~ there was no sign of life, save of the enforced stay of a canoe-load of Manihiki natives driven out of their course when on their way to Rakahanga. They had ...?... been restored to their homes at Manihiki, where I afterwards heard them tell their story.

In 1862 whilst Capt. Williams (since deceased) of the Mission vessel 'John Williams' was engaged in cutting the name of our vessel, etc, in the bark of a large tree, I superintended the planting of 37 coco-nuts for the benefit of future visitors. The 'John Williams' was left that interesting day in the able hands of the first officer, Mr Roger Turpie, now Captain Turpie.

In 1875 the 'John Williams' again touched at Nassau, and obtained a good supply of coco-nuts, the fruit of those planted in 1862. About a hundred nuts were on that occasion planted by Captain Turpie. Evidently Nassau had been unvisited during the 13 years which intervened between the two visits of the mission vessel. In 1881 I again saw Nassau, then but recently (say two years) taken possession of by Capt. John E. Ellacott. Three or four natives of Danger Island, under the charge of a white man, constituted the entire population of Nassau at that time. Capt. Ellacott resided at Borabora & visited Nassau at distant intervals.

In the South Pacific Directory the name of the discoverer of Nassau is correctly given; it has however slipped from my memory.

Should you desire an affidavit from Captain Roger Turpie, late master of the 'John Williams', you have only to send a line to him, c/o Mission House, Blomfield Street, London, E.C. Captain Turpie is now superintending the building of a new vessel (steam) for the service of our mission.

I do not wish to be intrusive; but I think it is right that you should ~~know~~ be in possession of the facts of the case, proving incontestibly that Capt. Ellacott was not (and never pretended to be - for he is an honourable man) the discoverer of Nassau.

Till I saw this paragraph I did not know that there is guano on Nassau. Probably this is the sole ground of the action taken by Mr Moore. I should have thought that the equitable laws of Britain would have amply sufficed to protect the interests of that gentleman.

Capt Ellacott is a native of Devonshire; but subsequently became a naturalised American.

Kindly excuse my thus troubling you. Hoping that you are none the worse (in health) for your late eventful voyage through the lately annexed groups,

I remain, my dear Sir John,

Yours faithfully,

William Wyatt Gill.

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Excerpt from the 'Sydney Telegraph' of 4.11.93.

SOPHIA AND NASSAU ISLANDS

Mr Henry J. Moors, an American citizen, residing in Apia, Samoa, has (according to news received from Samoa by the Katoomba) had several conferences recently with Secretary Gresham and Mr Dabney, solicitor of the State Department (Washington), with the view of having the U.S. Government take an interest in his claim against the British Government for damages growing out of the alleged illegal seizure by that country of two islands in the South Pacific Ocean about six months ago. Mr Moore asserts that the islands in question, which are called Sophia and Nassau, belonged to him at the time of their seizure by Great Britain, he having regularly purchased the former from H.M. Ruge and Co., of Hamburg, and the latter from John E. Ellicott, an American trader, who discovered it 15 years ago, and held it up to the time of its sale to Moors. The islands embrace about 750a. each, and are said to be rich in guano deposits. The claim is being investigated at the State Department, but it is not likely to result in any fresh complications with the British Government.

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HC to SS, no.3 of 16.1.94: repeats the substance of the Rev Gill's letter of 6.11.93 and adds -

" It does not appear to me that Mr Moors need suffer any damage at all in consequence of the establishment of a British Protectorate. Though his ownership cannot, I presume be acknowledged, yet his occupation, so far as it extends, can be recognized, and no one permitted to interfere with him so long as it continues, and he might be able to transfer his possession to another person. Should he, however, at any time cease to carry on operations at either of the islands it appears to me that he would have no rights whatever."

.....

PENRHYN: SEQUEL TO 'NORVAL' CASE.

H.C. to S.S, no. 3 of 17.1.94: Referring to my despatch No. 45 of the 14th of October on the subject of the seizure of the schooner "Norval" at Penrhyn Island, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I learn that Mr. F.G.Moss, who was attorney for the Penrhyn natives in the suits before the High Commissioner's Court, has been able to obtain a modification of the agreement entered into between the natives and Mr. Dexter. It is agreed that the term shall be for six months only, two thirds of the shell taken to go to Dexter and one third to the natives. Dexter to pay at the rate of \$280 per ton for the natives' share. Contract to be renewed for another term of six months if both parties are agreeable. Mr. F.G.Moss and the Penrhyn Hau to assist Dexter to recover the \$1445 paid by him to Donald & Edenborough, or rather to Captain Harries. This money was paid, as regards \$345 in cash, and the balance of \$1,100 by bill on Turner & Chapman of Tahiti.

It does not appear to me that this money can be recovered, at any rate not if the bill has passed into the hands of third parties for value.

I have & etc.

(Signed) John B. Thurston.

MANIHIKI AND RAKAHANGA

Br. Res (Moss) at Rarotonga, to HC, 14.7.94, re claim to lands on M and R states that islands in question are under jurisdiction of HC.

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HC in a minute on the file says that when a DC or warship visits M or R complaint will be investigated.

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NORTHERN COOKS

Thurston to SS, dated ¹⁷15.7.95, and written when on leave in England. Taken from a ms. draft in WPHC archives.

original forms enclosed to SS to HC, confidential, of 30.7.95
.....

Sir,

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter No.11712/95 of the 10th July, and its enclosures, transmitted by direction of Mr Secretary Chamberlain for my observations I feel it right to say that the papers appear to raise questions which could only be fully dealt with at considerable length.

Moreover in some part they touch upon matters that I myself desire to bring before Her Majesty's Government with the object of arriving as nearly as may be at a fixed line of policy regarding small outlying islands or groups in the Western Pacific such as those referred to.

In the first instance I should prefer to submit this matter orally.

But in the meantime I may say that it appears to me Mr Consul Simon attaches excessive weight to communications made to him by Mr Vivash ~~(?)~~ and other traders.

The information given him does not accord with mine either as to the social state of the people on the islands named, or to the extent of their commerce.

As regards Penryhn Island my despatches of last year reporting the well-intentioned but unfortunate intervention of Captain May R.N. together with the Report of the Judicial Commissioner Ross will afford a good deal of information. Mr Dexter of Tahiti having as therein reported provided the money wherewith to pay the fine imposed by Capt. May secured for a time the sole right to fish for pearl shell in the Penrhyn lagoon.

There was subsequently a modification of this agreement beneficial to the natives which I believe was also duly reported.

This island like Manahiki and Rakahanga has been placed by H.M.G. under the jurisdiction of the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific and it is extremely inconvenient for any other officer to concern himself in such places. The islands are not within the Consul's district nor is there, so far as I am aware, any legislative sanction by which he could exercise civil or criminal jurisdiction even if they were placed, as Mr Simon expresses it "under this/his/Consulate". *IX/18/11*

In saying that the natives of these three islands "have a strong objection to being placed under the jurisdiction of Fiji or the Cooks Islands Protectorate" the Consul shews, clearly that he has not learnt the actual circumstances of the islands in the Western Pacific - Penryhn, Manahiki and Rakahanga are neither under the jurisdiction of Fiji nor that of the Cooks Islands Protectorate (which is a native government) and the facts the natives and most people in the Pacific very well know.

As far as my information goes

/ The natives of Manahiki, Rakahanga and Penryhn have no desire to be associated in any way with Tahiti but they have a lively dread of such a connexion and hence their former insistent appeals for the protection of the British Flag. It will be within the recollection of Department that a few years ago a small French 'aviso' arrived at Manahiki and Rakahanga for the purpose of taking possession. The natives hoisted the English flag at both places and declared that they had already been ceded to the Queen. Had the French flag been ~~forced~~ then forced upon them fighting would have ensued.

In one of my despatches of 1893 I reported the arrival in Samoa in a whaleboat of a Chief of Manahiki who claimed the Kingship. This man had been driven forcibly from the Island for creating dissensions. He was the man who had previously gone to Tahiti and brought about the visit of the French ship-of-war referred to above. Before that he had resided at Takutea (?) and become a member of the Roman Catholic Church.

The general character of these people is good. They are spoken well of by the Commanders of Her Majesty's Ships who have visited them. And it is but a very short time ago that by command of H.M.G. I conveyed to them a substantial present in recognition of the hospitality and generous treatment they extended to the shipwrecked crew of the a British ship.

I do not doubt that the 'King' and native Missionaries would be able to give a reasonable explanation of the matters complained by Mr Vivash.

three

Any commission to the/islands named whether by Mr Brander who is the son of the late merchant Brander by a native lady (or anyone else from Tahiti) would give rise to much misunderstanding among the natives of places where the High Commissioners Court has sat and where his official protection has been already exercised. But this misunderstanding would be just that which Mr Consul Simon's informants wish to bring about. Moreover I beg leave to submit for Mr Chamberlain's consideration that the islands being under the British flag and being included within the sphere of the High

Commission's jurisdiction any enquiry that may be necessary should be made by that officer or one of his deputies.

With regard to some points in Mr Consul Simon's despatches I am not quite clear whether the Secretary of State wishes for my observations.

But I may perhaps observe that as regards French trading policy in Oceania or as regards the Notice relative to Navigation published locally on the 13 Dec. 1894 there is nothing that is very new. The same policy and same regulation exists in New Caledonia by virtue of directions ~~of~~ from the Government of the Republic. Yet notwithstanding this British subjects secure a large share of French trade, whether it would be wise to retaliate by forbidding French subjects to trade at Manahiki and the other islands specified I very much doubt. Much has been done within the last few years but it is impossible to regulate all at once the numerous small islands of the Western Pacific separated as they are by immense distances. I am however of opinion that the major part of the trade of the islands under consideration has all along gone to Auckland and Sydney and I have every reason to believe that ere long there will be a marked improvement in this direction.

I would respectfully recommend that the Consul at Tahiti should have his jurisdiction extended to the Paumotu and other dependencies of Tahiti but I am of opinion that British capital merchants & others at Tahiti might continue with great convenience to seek their claims or remedies in the local Courts or from the local Governemnt and apply for Consular intervention only when their efforts fail. Nothing is more fatal to the wellbeing and administrative control of natives' races than even the appearance of a 'divided command'.

I have,

.....

Reports which gave rise to Thurston's despatch were forwarded to Asst. HC under ~~copy/despatch~~ cover of SS ~~of/c~~ confidential despatch of 30.7.95 -

(26.4.95)

Walter E. Vivish, trader of Manihiki, reports to Simons/that:-

(1) Manihiki divided into 2 dists, only accessible ~~by~~ to one another by boats.

(2) Rakahanga divided politically between the 2 Manihiki dists.

Each dist of M., with corres dist of R., governed by separate King, each having recd Br. flag & papers from H.M.S. 'Espiegle' (Com. Clarke) which hoisted flag on 9.8.89.

Tauhunu 2ce pop of Tukao takes advantage by oppressing it in many ways, e.g. by keeping coconut plantations there closed indefinitely while their own nuts are being constantly collected. Constant friction bad for traders; no ~~law~~ written law; native missionaries in practice Kings and traders of islands.

Simons to FO 2.5.95. At M & R, which are under Br protection, constant & regular trade constant and regular trade carried on between natives and French schooners from Tahiti. Mother-of-pearl shell fisheries almost entirely in hands of M. Dexter, naturalized Fr citizen of Tahiti who also trades successfully with his schooner 'Niuroahiti' under Fr colours. Same remarks apply to Penrhyn, annexed 1888.

"No established laws, dues, taxes, or Regulations, and where the control is entirely in the hands of native Chiefs, the French schooners trading there, have everything practically their own way", & as Fr have recently prohibited shell divid in Tuamotus for 6 months this may result in extinction of shell in Northern Cooks.

Simons to FO 4.5.95. (d/o). Natives of M, R & P"have a strong objection to being placed under the jurisdiction of either Fiji or the Cook's Islands Protectorate, but they appear to be willing to be under this Consulate. I am unable at the moment to explain why this should be, but am informed on all sides that such is the case."

In case of P Consulate authorized (FO, No.2, Commercial, 1894) to issue "Certificates of British Ownership" to vessels owned by Br subjects inhabiting this islands.

Population almost 1,500
Import & export trade about £18,000
(M £11,000, with R.: P.£7,000)

Recs Vice-Consul Brander to conduct independant & offical rept on is.

Enc. Statement by Mr Brander.

P, M & R connected with T by 3 trading schooners, "Tetautua" owned by Penrhyn islanders, and runnigg under a provisional pass issued by Br Consulate, & 2 Fr schooners "Niuroahiti" and "Ina" both of Papeete, former chartered by Captain Dexter, a naturalized Fr citizen of Tahiti, and latter owned by M^r Coppenruth, a Belgian subject resident in T.

"Tetautua" makes very irregular trips, and the others 4-5 a year. Time to is 4-7 days, wind usually favourable. Return about 14 days.

Bulk of trade with Tahiti - little to Rarotonga.

FO to Simons No.1 3.8.95. Pp shown to Thurston and his views obtained.

"I am directed by his Lordship to state, with regard to Penrhyn Island, which, like Manahiki and Rakahanga, has been placed under the jurisdiction of Her Majesty's High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, that it is not considered advisable that your jurisdiction should be extended over these islands, and it is thought that the question of holding a special inquiry into their condition, which does not seem a matter of great urgency, may be allowed to stand over."

.....

Thurston's main despatch (an important one) on the political future of the Cook Islands is dated 23.8.95 to the SS followed by another, in more general terms, dated 25.8.95. These were both written in England and forwarded by the SS to the ag HC under cover of despatch No. 32 of 17.9.95. Thurston was an implacable ~~opponent~~ opponent of NZ (or anyone except the Imperial Govt.) having anything to do with the governing of native races in the islands and in his despatches he does not mince his words. He failed to note the SS, however, finally owing to the Treasury objections to having to pay the salary of the Resident at Rarotonga.

R E P O R T
on a Visit to the
NORTHERN COOK ISLANDS
in 1899

b y
Captain Tupper
H.M.S. "Pylades"

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Copied from a typescript lent to me by R. Gibson, August, 1958.

"Report upon a Visit to the following Islands:- "NASSAU",
"DANGER", "HUMPHREY", "REIRSON", "PENRHYN", "SUWARROW".

by Captain Tupper: H.M.S. "Pylades" (1899).

.....

"NASSAU". Arriving within one and a half miles of the position marked landing place on the Chart, at 10.15 a.m. on September 15th: 1899, I left the in the whaler, and rowed towards the beach, - a canoe with two coloured men, met me about half a mile from the beach, from them I discovered that three more coloured men and themselves, composed the whole population. One Samoan, three from Rotumah, and one from Nieu, there are no women. They have been on the Island twenty three months and are under contract to be relieved in two years, they collect copra for Mr H.J. Moors of Apia, and have shipped 25 tons since they have been there, and have eight tons to ship. The schooner "Tongareva", was here in May last, and they expect another with their reliefs shortly, they are paid one pound per month, except the head man, who gets £2 per month.

2. I went quite close to the reef in the whaler, and had there been no canoe or surf boat, should have attempted a landing, which, in my opinion, can be effected in a ships boat but the boat would take in some water, but not dangerous to life is properly handled. I got the natives to launch a small surf-boat, (which they use for shipping copra). I left the whaler with orders to keep clear of the breakers. The surf-boat is flat bottomed and coppered, and strong. I got on shore almost dry, but had to wade about 60 yards over the reef - (which is flat and pitted with circular holes, about 6" in diameter and 4" deep) - to the beach, the beach is broken coral, no sand. I then looked at the mens huts, which are clean and comfortable, built Samoa fashion. They have fowls, ducks and geese; and some wild pigs, which they caught in the bush, and these are now breeding and becoming tame.

3. Then I walked across the island; for about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile from the beach the cocoanut trees grow in buffalo grass, beyond that there is bush consisting of various tropical creepers &c which are being gradually cleared.

4. The wells they use, are about $\frac{1}{3}$ of a mile from the beach, the water tastes excellent, and cold. From the look of the soil in other parts I visited, many more wells might be dug, and several banana patches might be cultivated, only about six of these trees are now growing, near the wells. Beyond the wells, the bush is hardly cleared at all, many more cocoanut trees might be grown, there is room for two or three times the number now growing. On my return I skirted the Southern side of the Island through thick

bush, there are several undulations, and I estimate the highest point of the Island, is at least 70 feet above the level of the sea.

5. I saw several species of birds, a kind of crow is the most common, pigeons are fairly plentiful, unfortunately I only took six cartridges on shore, and I used those for pigeons, so I did not get any specimens of other birds. A white bird, about the size of an English blackbird, only with a larger and thicker bill, is common, and very tame, then I noticed some large birds like tree-bustards, and some birds like the Ascension wideawakes, these birds are nesting.

6. I saw several fresh tracks of wild pigs. It appeared high water on shore, about 1.30 p.m., and I gathered the rise and fall is about 3 feet. I left the shore at about 2.45 p.m., the surf was rather heavier, owing ~~to~~ I suppose to the tide being higher than when I landed.

7. The following is a list of the trees and plants I saw growing: Limes, Banana, Tara, Cocoa-nut, and various ferns and grasses. To the animals already mentioned may be added several rats which appeared very tame. There are many species of Butterflies, where are no snakes or scorpions, and I did not notice and mosquitos.

I gathered that fish is plentiful, they catch them with a hook, off the edge of the reef. Turtle are also sometimes caught.

DANGER ISLAND. PUKA-PUKA.

Arrived at this group at 9.30 a.m. on Saturday the 16th of September 1899, under canvass, with a fresh breeze from N.E. and a considerable sea. Hove to about one and a half miles from the beach; and blew siren, when the Union Jack was hoisted at flagstaff. The sea was too heavy for canoes, and wind blowing on shore, so it looked unpromising; however, I left the ship in the whaler about 10.30 a.m. and sailed in, as I got close to reef, natives beckoned me to go more to the Westward. I found the reef takes a deep bend to S.E. and under lee of this I got smooth water. I went close up to the reef, the natives launched a canoe, and I landed in her, accompanied by the interpreter at 11.30 a.m. I was immediately surrounded by a crowd, the chief whose name is BILATO, was wearing the tunic of a private in the 4th Dragoon Guards. I asked him where he got it, he said, British Government gave it him, but I afterwards learnt he got it from a schooner. He gave me a letter written by Captain Gibson H.M.S. "Curacoa" 2nd June 1892, with a note signed by Lieutenant and Commander Ascough H.M.S. "Ringdove" dated 3rd June 1898 to which I added the date of my visit and some remarks about population &c. The missionary Mr NA TAU, from Rarotonga also received me and showed me his certificate of ordination. We then walked up to the Missionary's

house, which is large, and built of stone, as are several of the houses, but the majority are something like the Samoans, they are smaller and have a floor close to the roof, on which they sleep. The Mission House has three large rooms, the centre being the sitting room with table, chairs &c. Here we sat and talked, while a great portion of the population crowded in. From conversation I learnt the following.

Population is now 409, but they could not tell me how many of each sex, and how many children, the Missionary keeps the Register of deaths and births &c. He did not show it to me. If anyone misconducts himself, the chief BILATO holds a Court, assisted by three men, who are appointed by him, but they say the people are very good, and hardly ever require punishment. The Punishments are fines.

The trading vessels have all behaved well, no complaints, there is no liquor on the island, and none is allowed to be imported. The chief thought he was under Raratonga, I explained he was under the High Commissioner at Fiji. They were keeping Sunday, and all were dressed in their best, most of the men and women were clothed European fashion, hardly any children were naked. I noticed some zinc baths outside the houses.

2. They export about 60 tons of copra annually, the copra &c. belongs to them, and they sell it to the trading schooners for trade gear, not money. Messrs Dexter and Winchester of Tahiti send trade there every six months. The "Tongarewa" and the "John Williams", came here in April, - two or three vessels visit them during the year, they possess two boats and about sixty canoes. Fresh water is plentiful from wells, they have plenty of fowls, ducks, wild pigeons but no wild pigs, geese, sheep &c. and no dogs.

They have bananas, Limes, Cocoanuts and watercress, it seems that they might grow a much greater variety, if they were given the seeds, the soil looks good and capable of growing anything. They make good mats and good hats. Owing to its being their Sunday they would not sell me anything but gave me two fowls and six hats, as a present, so I gave them tobacco for a present.

3. They tell me that Puka-Puka is the only inhabited island of the group, they go to the others in canoes for copra &c.

4. It appears to me that the Sketch plan of the Danger Islands is not quite accurate, and from rough bearings with boats compass, I judge the shape of the reef, and the relative positions of the islands to be, as shewn in red on the accompanying tracings, and certainly with wind and sea as it was when I landed, I could not have got a lee if the reef is as shown in the plan.

5. As my presence is required in Samoa as soon as possible I did not consider I should be justified in waiting two or three days

while accurate observations were being made, they might have proved that the chart is correct and I am wrong.

6. I left the shore at 2.15 p.m. when it appeared to be high water, and I consider that at high water on a calm day a whaler might safely go on to the reef, but the men in her should know how to work in surf and should go in and out in a canoe, before attempting to handle the whaler themselves.

HUMPHREY, or MANAHIKI ISLAND.

Approaching the Island under steam, sighted a small schooner the Toerau of RURUTU, at anchor off the settlement, and a small native surf-boat, came alongside with a half-caste named Williams, who speaks English very well. I sent the whaler to try and find an anchorage near the schooner, but was not successful, however the natives pointed out where H.M.S. Espiegle anchored, about two-thirds of a mile from the settlement, I anchored there having examined the vicinity in the whaler, (a tracing of the anchorage is attached). It would not be safe with a Westerly wind, which occurs later in the year. There is a small channel in the reef, opposite the centre of the settlement, I took the whaler through this with a steer oar, and landed without shipping any water. The beach is rather smelly from refuse, but the paths in the village are well kept. There seems to be hardly any soil in the Island, the ground in the bush is mostly of broken coral like the beach, a few ferns grow in it, besides the Cocoanuts, which to me, seem to be too numerous, attempts are made to grow breadfruit, bananas, taru &c. but the natives tell me they do not bear fruit properly.

2. The fresh water, is provided from wells, which appear well kept, they are surrounded by small walls, and are faced with stones from the surface of the water to the "teneplein".

3. The people seemed to have put on their best clothes in honour of my visit, and practically all the men wore European clothes, several of the women did so also. There are two settlements, the population of TAUHUKA is 230 - of TUKOA 260 - total 580 natives and half-castes. One white man lives there, a Mr Ellis, he trades for the Pacific Islands Co. of Sydney and London. The missionary's name is TERALI, he has been there three years, and comes from Raratonga.

4. The exports are Copra about 15 tons at 4 cents per lb., Pearlshell about 10 to 12 tons at £72 per ton. Pearl-shell is improving in quantity and quality, good mats and good hats are also made here.

5. The imports are Flour, Biscuits, Rice, Sugar, Kerosene,

Dress-goods, Lumber, Hardware, Paints, Oils, Boat's sails &c. to the value of about £1800 per annum. The following Firms trade here, Messrs Dexter and Winchester of Tahiti, Agent Mr Williams, Half-caste; and Pacific Islands Trading Co. of London and Sydney, Agent Mr Ellis, an Englishman. The natives possess some fine sailing boats, which they use for diving, and for communicating with REIRSON ISLAND. They also have about 20 surf boats, and 20 canoes. Fowls seem plentiful, there are also pigs, no pigeons, hardly any birds but crows, no dogs. Fish is plentiful, but they did not catch any for me. The Law is administered by the Hau and King APOLO. APOLO is unintelligent and weak and has but little authority, and it seemed to me, that the Hau also required stiffening, I mean they do insist upon implicit obedience to their orders, but I tried to impress this necessity upon them. (sic.)

The general code of laws, seems much the same as those in force at PENRHYN, but they are not written down, however they have a book of Land Laws compiled by the missionary at REIRSON island, and it is printed in the native tongue and in English, side by side, the Hau use this to decide land cases.

6. I asked about punishments, they said they consisted chiefly of fines, and also, they made men work at the roads. They have irons, but they say Mr Hunter told them not to use them, so they do not use them. When they have collected fines, the proceeds are distributed amongst the people.

REIRSON, or RAKAHANGA ISLAND.

There is no anchorage; even trading schooners lay off and on. The landing is bad, worse than at the other places, a man of war boat could not manage it, but not unsafe in the little punts that the natives use.

2. The village is well kept, the huts are much the same as at MANAHIKI, but the missionary's House is the best I have seen, so also is the church, which is a model of neatness, and clean paint &c. Old KING JESE, is very feeble, and in his dotage, he received me in a robe made out of a rug with a hole cut for his head, and it was trimmed with what had been gold embroidery, and had a gold star at his neck. The graves here are ~~embroidery~~ remarkably well kept, they seem to take a pride in making them specially neat, they are built of stone and white washed, some have huts built over them, roofed either with corrugated iron or palm, some of the headstones are ornamented with coins let into the stone, I saw florins & sovereigns in some of them.

3. An interesting feature is the native Bank, REIRSON or MANAHIKI (sic.) is the only island possessing such a thing. It is conducted on co-operative principles, it is under the control of the Hau, and they appoint a man to look after it. The bank

is a large shed, at one end is the store, which contains all sorts of European goods, and provisions, and under the counter the money is kept in a big drawer, the other end has partitions for copra; the walls of this house are only of matting, and anyone could get in. But it has never been robbed. When any natives have copra to sell, they bring it to their Bank, and get trade gear for it at value of 4 cents per lb. The copra is put into the store, for any trader that comes. The bank will also buy cocoanuts and make copra themselves.

4. The Hau has plenty of money, and turn over about 1,000 dollars (Chilian) per quarter, and I understand that the profits are distributed to the people.

5. The absence of soil is similar to that at HUMPHREY Island, consequently the bush is much the same, nothing but cocoanut trees, and a few ferns, a sort of taru is grown in small quantities, and I saw an attempt at bananas, breadfruit, and pumpkins, but was told these always fail. The water is not so good as that at HUMPHREY Isd. more brackish. I shot some plover along the beach, and I am told that there are some curlew also, no pigeons.

6. The exports are Copra about 30 tons per annum, no Pearl shell, it has been tried in the lagoon, but does not succeed. Messrs. Dexter and Winchester, supply the trade gear to the native's Bank, which takes about £400 worth per annum. Population 370, no white men. The law is administered similarly to that at HUMPHREY Island, and it appears that JESE, and APOLO are KING, in both Islands, and the people are constantly changing from one island to the other. I endeavoured to impress the Hau with the necessity for more firmness in having their decisions carried out.

7. It would be an advantage to choose a strong minded chief in each of these islands, and there are such men, and appoint him Government representative and make him carry out the orders of Government. The communities are quite rich, and much might be done to improve their dwellings and their general habits of living, the people generally being intelligent and capable. These two islands supply labour for FANNING, CHRISTMAS and FLINT Islands.

The Hau asked for a new flag, the present one is getting old, and I submit that when next a man-of-war visits these islands, each island may be given a new Union Jack, as all the flags are getting worn.

PENRHYN

Arriving off the island on Saturday, September 23rd, at 8 a.m. I had no difficulty in picking up the anchorage, I ~~did~~ dropped anchor off the beacon at 8.15 a.m. One of the Lagoon diving boats came out, with Mr Dexter and his partners. The natives were

keeping Sunday. I landed at 4 p.m. and the Hau were assembled to meet me.

2. There are two settlements, one called OMOKO, near the anchorage, the other TETAUTUA, the other side of the Lagoon.

Population of OMOKO (natives)	242
do. TETAUTUA do.	146
MOLOKOI (lepers) do.	<u>29</u>
Total	<u>417</u>

There are also the following European traders there &c. Mr Dexter and Mr Rey, Agents for Dexter & Winchester, Tahiti. Mr Macdonald, Agent for Messrs. Copenrath of Tahiti. Mr Johnstone of Tahiti and Mr Wilson live on the island.

3. There are three diving machines now in use. Two belong to Mr Johnstone, he has a contract with the Hau, they allow him to dive for pearl-shell with one, and he supplies the Hau with a machine and complete outfit in exchange for the privilege of using diving machine himself. The third machine belongs to Messrs. Dexter & Winchester of Tahiti, their arrangement is to work with it for two months, and then the Hau uses it for two months. A great deal of diving is also done without dresses. Half of the Lagoon is closed for shell diving for a year, to give the shell time to grow, the other half will be closed as soon as the Hau declare that the half that is now closed, is open. The shell is very good and continues to improve, it also grows very fast.

4. On the day before I arrived, Messrs. Dexter and Winchester paid no less than 380 dollars for shell that had been gathered, I understand they get 25 cents per lb. for good shell, consequently the natives are very well to do, no doubt the traders do a very lucrative business for although they pay 25 cents per lb for the shell they buy from the natives, the natives return most of the dollars to the traders, in exchange for food and clothing &c &c, such as flour, sugar, biscuit, kerosene &c, so the traders make a profit on the shell, and on the merchandise. However, judging by the prices I was told they charge for things, I think they treat the natives fairly and at any rate, the natives appear quite contented with the arrangements, and are I think quite capable of resisting any attempt at extortion. I made inquiries about the liquor, and Mr Winchester showed me some of his books, showing what he had imported, I did not notice any entry of spirits &c, nor did I see any evidence of it's being used by the natives, and Mr Winchester assured me, he only had 3 bottles of brandy on the island (and no other spirits) for medicinal purposes. He had some wine and beer for Europeans, and spirits are only issued to the natives on a written order (guarantee) from the Chief, that it is necessary in cases of illness. The houses, and general

look of the place and settlement rather disappointed me, the houses are small, and made principally of lumber washed ashore from the two wrecks that have occurred here, they are also closely packed, but they appeared clean inside, however the abundance of flies and mosquitos, showed that more care might be bestowed on clearing away rubbish, refuse &c. I told the Hau that I was sorry that their houses were not so good, and their town not so nicely kept, as those of the other Islands I had visited, and as they were richer than their neighbours, they ought to have better houses. The Church, the Court House, and the School, appeared to be the only buildings of stone, these are well kept.

TAPOUA is chief of OMOKO,

PAPU is chief of TETAUTUA.

They both seem capable men, and men who make the people obey them.

5. The report upon the cases inquired into, at the Court House is herewith (enclosure), No.5.

6. The exports may be put down as 50 tons of Copra and 35 to 40 tons of Pearl Shell. Imports about £2,000 worth of general merchandise and food. It is satisfactory to hear that although the trade is conducted by French firms from Tahiti, most of the merchandise, and food sold, comes from either Great Britain or New Zealand, and that the Shell and Copra go to the English market. During the 23rd and 24th September, Lieut. Truscott, assisted by Mr Dannreuther Midshipman, examined the topography of the Island, and proceeded to Flying Venus reef upon which they anchored, and fixed the position. Lieutenant Truscott's report and chart of the Island is attached (enclosure No.2), it shows that the plan now in use, requires slight modification.

7. The Hau invited me on shore at 8 a.m. on September 24th they had organised a native dance in my honour, and after witnessing this, they took me to the Court House, where I received the people, each bringing a pearl-shell or a cocoanut, I then invited the people on board, almost 200 at once went off in their sailing boats, and remained on board from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. and much interest in Divisions, Church &c. before they left about 40 men volunteered to clean the weed off the ship's bottom, the bottom is not very foul, but there was a considerable growth of weed, about one foot under water this they removed with cocoanut husks in about an hour, without any noise or fuss, and all they asked for was a box of ship's biscuits, this I gave them, and offered them some tobacco as well, but they said they were pleased to have done it, and they did not want anything more than the biscuit.

8. I then had the chiefs and several members of the Hau in my cabin, and read the minutes of the proceedings in the Court House, on the proceeding afternoon to them, these I had entered in the book which contains their Laws, and reports upon various cases dealt with by the Hau. I then presented a small picture of Her Majesty, to each chief to hung in the Court Houses at OMOKO and TETAUTUA, these they were very proud to possess. The chiefs

asked for a new flag, as the one at OMOKO was very ragged, I exchanged it for a nearly new one, and told the Chief of TETAUTUA, I would ask Her Majesty to send him a new one. I then gave the Chiefs and some of the head-men $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of ship's tobacco each, and said good-bye to them, they then left the ship.

9. I gave special leave to Starboard Watch from 1.30 to 5 p.m. and the natives entertained them with various dances, which were exceedingly well performed.

10. Staff Surgeon Axford, visited MOLOKOI Island, and found it to contain twenty-nine lepers, all suffering from the Tubercular form of the disease, several in an advanced stage, they appeared fairly comfortable, and clean, and happy, they do not seem to realize they have a fatal disease.

11. The general health of PENNYHYN appears fairly good, but not so good as that of the other Islands I visited, where there was practically no sickness at all. At OMOKO 5 women and 2 men were treated, whilst at the others no one came forward. Water is obtained from wells, it is rather brackish but appears to be fairly good.

The Island like HUMPHREY, and REIRSON, is deficient in soil, and consequently it grows very little, except cocoanuts, no bananas, nor limes, and beyond a few pumpkins, no vegetables, I am told that the production of yams potatoes &c, has been tried here, but without effect. There are fowls, ducks, pigs, &c, some curlew, sea-plover, crows and small white birds, and a large kind of fish-kite, there are also some duck seen occasionally, but no pigeons.

SUWARROW ISLANDS.

I arrived off this lagoon at 10.15 a.m. on the 30th of September 1899 and leaving the ship cruising under fore-and-aft sail, entered the Lagoon in the whaler at about 11 a.m. I went through the smaller or Western passage, which has a white beacon on each side, I sounded occasionally on my way in, and also across the channel between the beacons, the best water I got was $\frac{1}{4}$ less three fathoms, about one third of the distance across from the West Beacon towards the East Beacon.

There is a deep hole 13 fathoms, close to the East Beacon the water looks more shallow than it really is, but I do not think the Western Passage suitable for a ship drawing as much water as the "Pylades". It is used by the S.S. "Emu", of the Pacific Islands Company, drawing 15 feet, and she was at anchor off the Pier, when I arrived.

2. The beacon shown on the plan, to mark the Port side of the Eastern or deep channel is not there, after passing through the West channel, I looked for the $\frac{1}{2}$ fathom patch marked on the chart,

I could not find it, the Captain of the s.s. "Emu", and Mr Nagel the manager, says it does not exist. There are two beacons on shore just to the right of the Pier when in line ships should not anchor to the Westward of that line, or they will not have room to swing.

3. The worst weather comes from the North to North-West, when the sea breaks right over the reef into the lagoon, to the left of Anchorage Island. A stone wharf might with advantage be built on Position marked red on the edge of the reef, steamers could then go alongside to coal and take in cargo.

4. I think SUWARROW might be a very useful base, for any operations against Foreign Islands of the Western Pacific, as large vessels could coal there in comfort and safety, it might also be of use as a coaling station for cruisers protecting the Trade Route from Australia and New Zealand to British Columbia, and San Francisco, but it requires a more detailed survey.

5. The population consists at present of Mr Nagel a German, and 23 natives. Mr Nagel is manager for Pacific Isds Co, that company with Sir Arthur Gordon (Lord STANMORE) as chairman, rents the Island from the British Government, they are also working GARDNER, BAKER, PHOENIX, CHRISTMAS, FLINT, CAROLINE, AND STARBUCK Islands.

6. There is one diving machine now at work at SUWARROW, and another is on it's way, the one has been in use for seven months with excellent results, since it's use a plentiful supply of first rate shell has been obtained, and Mr Nagel says he has hopes of a large output. The output may be estimated at 34 tons per machine per annum, the shell is taken from depths varying from 20 to 30 fathoms.

7. The islands will not grow anything except copra, and a tree of hard wood. At present they have been unable to find any fresh water, and have to rely on rain water, which when I arrived was scarce, but before leaving two or three heavy showers occurred. Mr Bell the supercargo of the S.S. "Emu", was considering the advisability of erecting a condensing plant, and he was visiting the various islands in the lagoon, with a view to searching for spring water.

8. The output of copra is small, only 10 tons per annum; when the new diving machine arrives the population will be between 30 and 40, it is recruited from various islands in the Western Pacific, 12 men were just returning to their Islands having completed their contract. There were four women and a few children, all well and no complaints of any kind.

9. Excepting for the personal use of Mr Nagel, no liquor is allowed on the Island, and his supply seems to be a very small one. There is a small church, and a teacher from RARATONGA.

10. Curlew, Sea-plover, and a large sea bird, are I believe,

the only birds, there is a little Guano, but of inferior quality. Fish are plentiful, and so are Turtle.

11. In course of conversation I obtained the following information about other Islands, in the Western Pacific, which may be of interest.

FANNING ISLAND. Mr Greig keeps about 150 tons of coal in store, price £3 per ton.

FLINT ISLAND. Planted with cocoanut trees, inhabitants are Mr Ellis and his wife, both English, and 30 natives, working for Pacific Islands Company, the landing is very bad even for surf boats, and it was hoped a man-of-war would visit the Island, and blow up a couple of rocks, to make a good and safe passage for a boat through the reef. Exports, about 200 tons of copra, but it is very difficult to embark it.

WASHINGTON ISLAND. Yields about 300 to 400 tons of copra per annum

CHRISTMAS ISLAND. Exports copra, about ~~300~~ 200 tons, also Pearl-shell. the export of the latter is likely to increase.

Enclosure.

PENRHYN ISLAND.

Case No: I. The Haw of TETAUTUA represented by their judge named PAPU, complained that the Haw of OMOKO, had kept, and torn up a sail, valued at 200 dollars, belonging to the Haw of TETAUTUA. Evidence was given that the sail in question was a mainsail belonging to the schooner ~~TETAUTUA~~ TETATUA, and lent by the Haw of TETAUTUA to the schooner TETATUMU, belonging to Aaratonga: The schooner "Tongarewa" belonging to the Haw of OMOKO, agreed with the people owning the schooner TATATUMU to bring the sail back to OMOKO for ten dollars but the people of Raratonga did not pay the ten dollars. When the Tongarewa arrived at OMOKO, the chief Papu, was told that he could have the sail if he paid the ten dollars freight, he said he would not pay the ten dollars, as he considered the Tongarewa ought to have brought the sail for nothing, the sail then remained on the beams of the Court House for nearly two years, when the Haw of ~~TETAUTUA~~ OMOKO decided to do away with it, as the Haw of TETAUTUA would not pay the ten dollars freight for it, so they cut the sail in halves, and sent half to the Haw of TETAUTUA, and kept one half themselves, in payment of their claim of ten dollars. PAPU wanted compensation for the sail, the sail was three years old, when the incident occurred, and from what was said I gathered that it was not of much value when it was cut up last week, I told the chiefs that PAPU, ought to have paid the freight demanded by the Haw of OMOKO, and recovered the ten dollars from the owners of the

TATATUMU, at Raratonga, and that I did not consider he was entitled to compensation for the action taken by the Haw of OMOKO, as they had given him ample time and asked him often to pay the money (ten dols.) and remove the sail from the Court House. All seemed satisfied and said they would not have any more trouble in the matter.

Case No: II. A great argument then began about the respective rights of the people of TETAUTUA and OMOKO, with regard to fishing rights in the lagoon, I addressed the meeting and said:- Queen Victoria would be very sorry to hear that such prosperous and religious people, were quarreling about the Pearl Shell, there was more than enough for all, and they were rich, these disputes should be settled amicably by representatives from each Haw. The chiefs then assured me that there was no quarreling and they could arrange everything peacefully, and I could tell Queen Victoria they would not dispute.

Case No: LLL. The schooner "Tongarewa" belonging to the Haw of OMOKO, had been leased in November 1898, to a Mr Dodge, for 15 dollars per diem. Mr Dodge paid 400 dollars in provisions &c. to the Haw of OMOKO, before he sailed away, since then they have not seen the "Tongarewa", and have had no money from Mr Dodge. Where was the schooner? I told the Haw Mr Dodge was a fraudulent Bankrupt; he owed a lot of money to several people, and had not money to pay his debts, and that, so far as he was concerned, I was sorry to say, that it was unlikely ~~if~~ they would ever be able to get the money, which Mr Dodge owed to them. When I left Apia, the schooner "Tongarewa" was there, and had incurred debts to the amount of 450 dollars to Merchants there. The British Consul, Mr Hunter, had seized her and was making her earn money, to pay her debts. I asked what the Haw wished to do with the schooner. The Haw desire that the schooner shall be returned to them, as soon as she has paid the debts, owing at Apia.

I said the British Consul would do all he could, to help them to recover their vessel, and that in future they must get a Merchant such as Mr Dexter, to guarantee that a European was able to pay, and honest enough to pay, for the hire of a schooner, before they again let their schooner on charter.

Case No: IV. Mr Masters of Palmerston Is. sued the Haw of OMOKO for 201 dollars, he held a paper signed by a member of the Haw, stating that the Haw, would pay the amount, which was a fine imposed by the Resident at Palmerston Is. on a member of a community of OMOKO for theft. I found the theft was committed two years ago by a deaf and dumb boy belonging to OMOKO, who went in the Tongarewa to Palmerston Island, with several others there was also a charge of nearly setting a house on fire. I pressed Mr Masters and after considerable beating about the bush, he stated that the 17 dollars which had been stolen, had been found next

day buried close to the house, and further no damage had been done to the house. The fine had been imposed by old Masters, an Englishman, who apparently, now owns Palmerston Is. and he makes the laws &c. there. Obviously the deaf and dumb boy, who is also deficient in mind (I saw him myself) could not pay the fine, so Masters came down on the Haw of OMOKO, for the money, but the Haw of OMOKO, refused to pay. I said the only action the Haw of OMOKO could take, was to make the deaf and dumb boy (he has no name) work, and earn money to pay the fine, but as the man was of unsound mind, and was also deaf and dumb, he could not be expected to earn money to pay the fine. So I judged that the fine imposed could not be collected, and I directed Masters to tear up the paper he had, and he did so. I then told the Haw of OMOKO they must look after this deaf and dumb man, and not let him go away in schooners to other Islands as he was untrustworthy. They said they would look after him.

Case No: V. PAPU, Chief of TETAUTUA asked if he could force the MANAHIKI Government to give him 150 dollars he had fined a MANAHIKI boy that amount for breaking into a store at TETAUTUA

belonging to a man named JOSEPHA. I found out that the boy in question is very poor, and so are his relations, I told PAPU that he could tell the Haw of MANAHIKI that they must make the boy work to earn money, but as he was so poor, the Haw of Tetautua should be content with less than 150 dollars as the punishment of a fine depends upon the ability of the accused to pay it. In this case I thought 50 dollars would be enough, but he could not force the Haw of MANAHIKI to pay him, until they had collected it from the boy, but it was the duty of the Haw of MANAHIKI to make the boy work, and pay the fine to them.

Case No: VI. The Haw of OMOKO asked me what they could do to a man who refused to obey their judgment. I said (IX) they could banish him from the island, and confiscate his land and rights (II) or they could report him to the High Commissioner at Fiji, in which case a Man-of-war, would probably come and take the man to prison in Fiji, for contempt of Court.

Case No: VII. The Haw asked me about kissing the Bible when giving evidence. I said, when the Judge wanted to hear the truth and nothing but the truth, from a witness, he makes a witness kiss the Bible. If it is afterwards proved, that a witness told a lie after kissing the Bible, he would be guilty of perjury, that is, swearing falsely, and he would have a very severe punishment. Penal servitude, Fiji Prison for five years and have to work on the roads in chains.

Case No: VIII. The people of Penrhyn keep the same Sunday as that of Sydney N.S.W. whereas all the other islands in the vicinity, except Danger Island, keep the Sunday of West longitude, even Raratonga has just passed an Act of Parliament, altering Sunday to that of West Longitude, and I find the Missionaries have been told to observe the proper Sunday by the White Mission-

aries, but the people of Penrhyn, say they intend to keep to their present Sunday. I explained that it upset business and the more business they do the more inconvenient they will find it, and I advised them to have two Christmas days this year and that would put them right. They said they would think it over.

Case No: IX. The Haw produced Queens Regulation No: 4 of 1893, to prohibit the supply of intoxicating liquors to natives of the Western Pacific Islands. With regard to Par. 2 the Haw asked if this Regulation applied to half castes. I ruled that it did apply to halfcastes, that natives, included halfcastes, that a person of European descent, meant a person whose parents were both Europeans. No liquor was to be allowed upon the island. The Queens Regulation No:4 of 1893 is to be strictly kept, and it applies to halfcastes and everyone not of European descent. I made special enquiries with regard to any spirits being imported by the firms which have trade houses here. They tell me they only keep a little brandy for medicinal purposes for the divers when, they are ill, and they never issue it without a certificate signed by the chief of the settlement. They have claret and light wines for their own use, but do not use spirits. I believe these statements to be correct. I considered it necessary to define European descent as both parents being Europeans, as from their general appearance, I believe 70% of the population here, to be halfcastes.

Case No: X. The Haw asked for a new flag, I said I would apply for one. I presented each Haw with a small framed picture of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, to be placed in the Court House.

MANAHIKI

KAINA

Case No:I. Correspondence with regard to a report of this KAINA, having threatened to kill King JESE, at the Court House from the High Commissioner for Western Pacific, is dated Suva, Fiji 8th February 1899.

KAIANA, who was very respectfully dressed pleaded "not guilty".

I then called upon members of the Haw, to give evidence. From them I learnt that KAINA, had been a Judge in the Court House at TUKO and that JESE had deposed him. Apparently the Court House is built upon some land belonging to KAINA, so he objected to letting JESE go into what he considered his house, When the bell rang to assemble the Haw, KAINA ran towards the Court House, he had his knife in his belt, but several witnesses proved he did not draw it. all I could prove was that KAINA was very angry, and said, if JESE entered the Court House, he would know something, and it appears KAINA went in and sat down, and JESE did not go in. I then asked KAINA if he had seen JESE since, - He said, "no".

I asked him if he could be friends with him, when he met him,-
He said, "yes".

Judgment. The charge that KAINA entered the Court House with a knife to kill JESE, is not proved, but proved he made a disturbance. Cautioned KAINA, he must respect JESE and the HAW:- As he no claims to be under APOLO, I told APOLO and the Haw, that if ~~KAINA~~ KAINA made any more disturbance, he was to be arrested and reported to next Man-of-war.

Case No: II.

TAILUA v ABRAHAM

TAILUA, complained that Mr Hunter, had decided in his favour in a land dispute, with ABRAHAM, and ordered the Chiefs to see him righted, and that ABRAHAM, was to give up the land, but nothing has since been done, and ABRAHAM, wont give up the land.

I had ABRAHAM up, and told him U was very angry with him, indeed, and said I would take him to Fiji to prison for disobeying the Deputy Commissioner, but ABRAHAM seemed so scared, and said he would carry out the decision and give up the land at once, so I said the next Man-of-war would enquire if he had done so,- if not he would go to prison in Fiji.

Case No: III.

KOPA v JOSEPHA

It appears these are half brothers, and dispute the ownership of a piece of land which belonged to their father. Could find no former evidence in the Haw book. APOLO said that at first the Haw had decided in favour of KOPA, the elder, but he did not behave well, so they took it away, and gave it to JOSEPHA, and now he, JOSEPHA, behaved badly.

After a long argument in which a great many people joined, I got the disputants to agree to divide equally, and told the Haw to see it done. Entered the judgment in the Haw book accordingly.

Case No: IV. A man named TAU-TAU, a member of the Haw gave me some papers in native language, which show that the natives of AITUTAKI, owe to the Haw of MANAHIKI the sum of 2457 dollars (two thousand four hundred and fifty seven dollars) which they have hitherto been unable to get. I have forwarded the papers to the Resident at Raratonga with a request that he will enquire into it, and inform His Excellency the High Commissioner, of the result.

RAKAHANGA

Case No: I.

WILLIAMS v MAHRONA

Under a will dated 22nd June 1892, WILLIAMS claims for his daughter a piece of land which MAHRONA also claims. I found

that although MAHRONA lives here, he is now at Fanning Island, working.

2. I asked the Haw if they had tried this case,- They said, "yes", so I made them turn up the case in the book they keep, and found the case had been tried in September 1893, and had been decided in favour of WILLIAMS. They said they had ordered MAHRONA to give up the land in dispute, but he had not done so, and when WILLIAMS went there to get copra, he found MAHRONA armed with a spear, and MAHRONA, ordered WILLIAMS to go away, and he went, not wishing to have a fight.

3. I then told the Haw and King JESE, they must make the men obey their orders, and explained that if a man disobeyed the orders of the Haw, he was guilty of contempt of Court, and they should make him a prisoner, and report him to the High Commissioner at Fiji, and when a Man-of-war came, he would probably be taken to prison in Fiji.

4. King JESE said he would again order MAHRONA, to give up the land, when he returned from Fanning Island, and he would punish him for not doing so before.

Case No: II.

ABELA v JOHANNAN

ABELA complains that JOHANNAN, has taken his land.

I asked King JESE, and the Haw if they had dealt with the case, they said "yes", and showed me the case in the book, dated 1st March 1893, in which it was decided ABELA was the rightful owner of the land.

The Haw upheld their decision and were practically unanimous in favour of ABELA, after both litigants had spoken. So I told JOHANNAN he is not to go on the land without permission from ABELA, and if ABELA complains to the Haw again about JOHANNAN being on his land without permission, the Haw must punish JOHANNAN severely, and report him to the High Commissioner, if they have trouble with him.

Case No: III.

EPHRAIM v ISRAELI

In this case the Haw said they could not decide to whom the land belonged, because they were divided in opinion, half in favour of EPHRAIM, and half in favour of ISRAELI.

2. I said, if that is the case each man must be half right, so the land ought to be equally divided. I then asked each disputant if he would agree, and they each said "yes" and the Haw agreed also - so the matter was settled.

Before closing Court~~x~~ in each island, I stood up, and, through the interpreter told the people they must obey the Law as given by the King and the Haw. They were Christians, and must live in peace, and abide by the decisions, given by the Haw.

The next Man-of-war would enquire if anyone had disobeyed the order of the Haw, or those of a Deputy Commissioner, and if anyone was found guilty of this, he would probably be imprisoned in Fiji.

I wrote the minutes of my proceedings in the book kept by the Haw.

.....
.....
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EXCERPTSfromFOREIGN OFFICE AND COLONIAL OFFICEcorrespondence onTHE NORTHERN COOKandGUANO ISLANDS, etc.

.....

made by R.T. Gilson in the P.R.O.

...

Includes (besides Northern Cook and Central Pacific Guano Islands) notes on:

- (1) Palmerston Island, p.1 ff.
- (2) Marshall Islands, pp.1; 2; 7.
- (3) Henderson Island, p.5.
- (4) Kuria Muria Islands, pp.6 & 7.
- (5) Caroline Islands, p.7.
- (6) Tokelau Islands (guano), p.7.

.....

.....

..

NORTHERN COOK ISLANDS

FO and CO material on

FO 58/259

CO to FO, 20.7.91.

... flag hoisted over principal islands in Oct. and Nov. 1888. Not in smaller islands until June or July 1889 /"Cormorant"/.

FO 58/254

FO minutes on House of Commons inquiry regarding cable station islands in the Pacific, HC to FO, 17.2.90.

Minutes: Adm had written CO, with copy to FO, that Pukapuka, Nassau, Palmerston might be acquired ~~as~~ re trans-Pacific cable.

... it was thought that Pukapuka and Nassau would be risky, for it was ~~s~~ said that both had been bonded as guano islands, and the Adm. said that Nassau had been occupied by an American since 1877.

... but W.W. Gill, in letter of 5.11.89, said that Pukapuka's trade was in the hands of Henderson & MacFarland, so it is probable that the U.S. abandoned it.

... therefore, on inquiry, Britain might get Pukapuka.

Nassau: an American, Mr Ellicott, said to be on Nassau as of 1877, said by Adm. that he planted coconuts ... but Gill said he planted /Gill planted/ coconuts there in 1863 and that John Williams got supply of nuts there in 1875 ... Gill thought that the ~~present~~ "present owner" was a native of Devonshire, in which case U.K. might acquire that island too.

... Palmerston was never claimed by another Power ... Marsters leased it from HCWP /??/ in 1864 /??/, so Britain may annex.

N.B. : see FO 58/254 for data on the licensing of guano islands.

FO 58/233

CO to FO, 12.7.84.

... Henderson & MacFarland alleged to be supplying arms to Marshall islanders ... allegation made by Germans ... the authorities in Auckland said they found guns on H & M's ship only once, threw them overboard ... that was on the brig Ryno, bound for Suvarrow.

N.B. : see FO 58/233 for report of Comm. Rooke of HMS Miranda on Gilberts, Ellice, etc., of year 1886.

NORTHERN COOK ISLANDS, cont'd.

FO and CO material on

FO 58/254 ✓

FO to CO, 1.4.90. ✓

... G.R. Bethell, MP, asked CO about annexation of Palmerston; FO says ✓
the question / should not be answered until information is obtained on ✓
Pukapuka and Nassau too. ✓

N.B. : for anecdotal use only: in a letter from M.B. Best to FO re his
brother-in-law's imprisonment in Hawaii — "What a blessed thing to be a
~~British~~ British subject; it is next to being a loyal subject of King Jesus".

FO 58/312 (or FO Conf. Print of 5.6.97).

... concerning two people named Ebb / or Ebbs/, born at Penrhyn in
1860-61 of a native woman Punia ... they are involved in trouble in
Raiatea /N.B. : issue being that of British responsibility for these
half-castes following take-over of Penrhyn. RG/

FO 58/313

James Morrison and Co. to CO, 29.5.97, dated London.

... H. and MacF. are active in Marshalls, but hard-pressed by Germans ...
they have traders in Marshalls names S. Halstead, H. Ohlesen, and Thomas
Jack, the latter two also trading for the Germans ...

... Germans have 7 trading stations to H & M's 3 ... H & M discriminated
against by German Government.

CO minute: the German regulations is not exceptional, same thing found in
~~the~~ British colonies.

FO 58/111

J.C. Williams to FO, 2.1.67, dated Apia.

Suwarrow and beche-de-mer: 5 Rarotongan men were induced by an American,
John Doggett, master of schooner Caroline of Melbourne, to go to Suwarrow
for a few months to gather beche-de-mer ... but instead he came to Tutuila,
put them off there, gave them an order on a man whom he knew wouldn't pay
... after six weeks the Rarotonga men came to Williams.

... Doggett defrauded another party of Rarotonga people too, taking
beche-de-mer without paying ... Williams heard D's vessel was seized at
Melbourne.

NORTHERN COOK ISLANDS, cont'd.FO & CO material, cont'd

CO 209/252

Gov, NZ, to CO, 28.9.93.

... in order to decide the case of Penrhyn people v. Donald and Edenborough the WPHC had to be brought in ... this indicates the anomalous position of the C.I., which seem to be partly under NZ protection ... would like to see this question cleared up, as to whether Moss can be made responsible to WPHC.

N.B. ... this is the Norval case ... papers in ~~CO~~ CO 225/43.

CO 209/255

Asst. HCWP to Gov, NZ, 19.11.95.

... concerning the case between Piltz and Penrhyn people: would like to hold court in Rarotonga and have Moss serve as registrar.

... it is understood that NZ Govt doesn't want WPHC interference in C.I., but this procedure would not involve any transfer of jurisdiction or of Moss's responsibility.

CO 209/260

Gov., NZ, to CO, 31.10.1900. /despatch also in A.1; NZPP, 1901/

... visited Penrhyn, mentions conditions there ... ~~Manihiki~~ Manihiki, Rakahanga, and Suwarrow were presumed to be Brit. Prot'd, except that Manihiki and Rakahanga are listed by CO as annexed in 1889. ... however the traders there say it was only protected ... nevertheless, the islands should become part of NZ along with the rest ... and Pukapuka should also be considered.

CO minute on above; will look into Pukapuka question, enquire on island's status from the Adm. ... the only previous pledge made by CO re any of the annexed islands was concerning Suwarrow, undertaking to keep the rent at present level (leased to Pacific Islands Co.) ... the other lessees have not been contacted.

CO 209/262 ✓

CO to Gov, NZ, 27.4.1901. ✓

... concerning Order in Council re annexation of CI and extension of NZ boundaries. ✓

NORTHERN COOK ISLANDS, cont'd.

FO & CO material on

... Suvarrow and Palmerston are now leased, lease of the former transferred to Pac. Is. Co. ... NZ to get the rents, to which Treasury agrees ... HCWP so instructed ... Marsters to be contacted when annexation comes into force.

... Aitutaki was annexed earlier.

... question of land at Suvarrow to be settled separately with Adm.

... no islands within boundary of O.C. not under ~~UK~~ UK protection.

Gov. NZ, to CO, 23.7.1901.

... confirms that NZ Govt will do nothing that would lead to complications over Pukapuka and Nassau.

CO minute to above: Nassau is the big question.

CO 209/263

Adm. to CO, 27.2.1901.

... the islands NZ wants to take over are already under British protection, no question of angering any foreign Power.

... Adm doesn't care who controls the islands, except that some naval condrs are Dep. Comsrs. WP.

... except in case of Suvarrow: it has good harbour, and if Panama Canal goes in, the island might be useful as a coaling station, in which case it would be better for Brit. Govt to control it outright, saving bother of negotiating later with NZ.

... so Suvarrow should be excluded from the new boundary extension Adm hopes that in future negotiations won't get to such an advanced stage before it is consulted.

CO to Adm, 14.3.1901.

Suvarrow: not practical to exclude it ... will ask NZ Govt to reserve for exclusive use of Adm whatever land Adm wishes to have there.

Adm to CO, 26.3.1901.

... Suvarrow is leased by Pac. Is. Co. and cannot reserve anything; Adm wants to have power to arrange direct with occupiers ~~for~~ for its land, and doesn't want to be stalled by colonial govt ... Adm's experience in past has been that col. govt. cause difficulties and delays.

CO minute to above: a govt can take over land for public purposes; NZ govt cannot be by-passed in this matter and the Adm ought to know it ... stick to original proposal to Adm.

Adm to CO, 2.4.1901.

... agrees then, ~~subject subject~~ provided that NZ Govt will set aside the reserve right now!!

N.B. NZ Govt agreed and Comdr of Aust. Stn. was to be sent to select the land required for coaling dump — RG.

N.B. Pacific Islands Co. was really Lever's Pacific Plantations Limited.
— RG.

CO 225/7

HC TO CO, 6.4.81.

... James Brown, who applied for guano license for Suwarrow, withdrew application because on visiting island he found "a number of Europeans and Islanders engaged in extensive pearl shell and beche de mer fisheries".

HC to CO, 6.4.81.

... Grice, Sumner of Melbourne applied for guano licence for Henderson island ... this outside jurisdiction of HC, so CO must consider granting it ... G. and S the licensees of Malden, have paid rent regularly.

HC to CO, 22.11.81.

... Arundel given guano license for Phoenix island ... £100 fee per year and to be no British competition ... but Crown does not guarantee protection.

CO minute: HC shouldn't have taken Arundel's word that the island was claimed by no foreign power; case should have been referred to CO before license granted.

CO 225/10

Adm to CO, 4.2.82.

... Phoenix not claimed by another Power /Arundel's licence okeyed/

Adm to CO, 15.2.82.

... encloses report of master of HMS Gannet re visit to several Pacific islands.

NORTHERN COOK ISLANDS, cont'd.

FO & CO material on.

... at ~~12/11/81~~ Malden, 28.10.81: a Melb Co working there, 100 native ~~12/11/81~~ labourers.

... at Penrhyn, 1.11.81: 4 traders there (2 Brit, 2 Amer) ... the "chief men" of the island were concerned about rumours of French move on island; they thought they were under Brit protection, but Comdr. Bourke told they were independent, ... he said they would not be bothered unless they consented to be ~~!!!~~

CO 225/12

... contains data on European land titles in area under WPHC jurisdiction, and question of registering titles ... data on licenses and labour recruiting.

CO 225/22

... copy of Comdr Rooke of HMS Miranda to Tryon (Aust. Station), 23.7.86.
..... a report on Gilberts, etc.

following notes from above report: Arundel leasing Canton from US for guano.

... he left Sydney island 10~~1~~ months before, expect to leave Canton for Baker or Raine island (latter in Torres Strait) in 4 months; he employes 96 labourers on Canton Island (46 from Niue, 50 from Cooks) ... Arundel to renew lease of Sydney Island with British Govt, to grow coconuts ... a Mr Ellis is Arundel's representative at Canton Island.

CO to Arundel, 22.2.86.

... okeys his application for licence to grow coconuts on Sydney island
... 21 years at £25 a year.

Treasury to CO, 5.3.86.

... Arundel owes £75 annual fee on license for "Kooria Moorria" Island for guano, even if it is cancelled .../Arundel had wanted no further action on his application re that island until he had investigated it/.

Treas. to CO, 14.8.86.

... Arundel to get license for coconuts on Caroline and Flint Islands, 21 years at £25 each per year.

Treas. to CO, 10.12.86.

... Arundel asked for rent free extension re Kooria Moorria island for 3

NORTHERN COOK ISLANDS, cont'd.FO & CO material on

years, giving him a chance to investigate the place ... but Treas would like to open question of outside offers for the island.

Herbert's minute: Arundel is trustworthy, the rent could be established when Arundel returns to England ... K.M. Island is in the Arabian Sea.

N.B. More correspondence on K.M. Island, Arundel had to pay up on spec.

CO 225/26

Sir J. Ferguson to CO, 20.7.87.

... asking for H and MacF whether their ownership of Funafuti, Tarawa Nantouk, Lukinor, Suwarrow, and Christmas will be recognized.

CO minute: will recognize their occupation of last two, but the first four are not British territory but rather belong to the inhabitants.

CO 225/29

Report by W.J.L. Wharton, Hydrographer, Admiralty, 11.5.88:—

Cable station: all of Phoenix under Houlder and Co; H & MacF stations are on Manihiki, Rakahanga, ~~Niue~~ Niue ... Suwarrow occupied by H & MacF since 1875 ... in the Union island all guano rights bought by Houlders from American Guano Company ... H & MacF have trading stations there.

Adm to CO, 7.5.88.

... data on annexation of Penrhyn, etc, printed in C.O. paper: Australia No.138, pp.50 ff.

Note: Suwarrow annexed on 22.4.88 ... H & MacF had owned it but sold out rights ... taken in connexion with Pacific cable route (with was apparently meant to include Jarvis, Union, Phoenix, Washington, and Palmyra).

... Fanning, Christmas, Penrhyn Islands annexed in March, 1888.

CO 225/35 ✓

W.W. Gill to Mr Trotter, 5.11.89 (presumably Coutts Trotter ... letter found its way to the FO first). ✓

... says Nassau, Palmerston, Pukapuka havn't come into British hands ... should be taken along with the rest of the islands ... all people concerned are sympathetic to Britain. ✓

NORTHERN COOK ISLANDS, cont'd.

FO & CO material on

CO 225/43

Copy of Western Pacific, Australia, no.19502 ... re Norval case.

Norval ... a vessel that one Harries of D & E seized against a debt of 2,000 dollars which D & E were ordered to pay to Hau of Penrhyn order made by Judge Pepou of Rarotonga, to whom the Penrhyn people took the case ... papers deal with conflicting decisions by naval officers in settlement of the case ... final settlement in favour of Hau.

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