

IN AMERICAN SAMOA.

Something About The People Lately Taken Into Our National Family.

By the partition of Samoa, a few days ago, Uncle Sam annexes 384 square miles of additional Pacific island territory, and makes 5,200 more Malay-Polynesian American subjects. The five islands falling to us are hardly a fourth the area of the entire Samoan group, yet in many respects we get a very generous third. Tutuila, the largest of these five now our territory, contains 240 square miles, and is, therefore, only a seventh the area of Long Island. Savali and Upolou, which fall to Germany, are each more than double its extent. Nevertheless Tutuila is more suited to our wants than either of these. Although it is barely mentioned in popular literature on Samoa, the state department has stowed away in its files several extensive descriptions from representatives who have explored it. Their accounts attest that it offers better facilities for a naval station than any island in the Pacific ocean. Pago Pago, its magnificent bay ceded to us as far back as 1872, is the most completely landlocked harbor in the world. It is by far the largest and safest in the entire group, while that of Apia, ceded to Germany, is treacherous and ill-protected against storm, as proved by the great disaster of a few years ago. Pago Pago, formed by a submerged volcanic crater, extends two miles inland, and can contain our entire navy, sheltered against hurricane by perpendicular walls of rock, in many places 1,000 feet high. It lies in an almost direct line between San Francisco and Australia, and nearly in the path of vessels plying between the Philippines and the proposed Nicaraguan or Panama canals. Considering this magnificent location and the fact that the navy last year began preparations to utilize this bay for a coaling and supply station, it would have been folly to have ceded it with Tutuila to Germany in exchange for a larger island.

Americans in Tutuila will enjoy the most beautiful scenery of the Samoan islands. Here and there their eyes will feast upon grottoes and natural fountains. At many points liquid lava, irregularly cooled, has formed great caverns opening toward the sea and often communicating inland with the upper levels of the cliffs through hollow shafts of natural formation. Although there is considerable rain during the year to keep the soil moist, there is no dreary rainy season, as in the West Indies or Philippines. The eternal summer keeps vegetable life at its height the year round.

Uncle Sam's 3,700 new subjects in Tutuila are independent of the two royal houses of Malietoa and Tupaia, which have waged the troublesome native wars. This fact alone will be advantageous to us. The Tutuilians are governed by their own hereditary chiefs, Fulmora, Tutele, Statele and Le Tun, each of whom reigns over a district. Above them all is Maunga, the great chief of the whole island. These tribes are descended from one great family, known as Leatou. What has been published in regard to the natives of the larger Samoan islands applies to them generally. They are Malay-Polynesians, like the Tagals in the Philippines, but are a higher type, men-

still practiced to some extent on the sly, although no man lives with more than one wife at a time. When he tires of one spouse he calmly packs her off to her mother and takes another. Although the Tutuilians can



MEN HELP TO NURSE AND COOK IN SAMOA.

build barricaded war canoes, holding two hundred men, can throw up earthworks and use firearms, they can be kept in order by a small garrison in time of threatening trouble. The reputed savagery and bloodthirstiness of these people caused their island until late years to be always avoided by ships going to Samoa. Information collected by the missionaries, however, indicates that this reputation was undeserved. In 1787, La Perouse, a French explorer, landed off Tutuila. A boat containing twelve of his crew was attacked in a small bay, off the southwest coast, and all were massacred by a traveling party of natives from Upolou. The place is still known as Masacre bay, and the Tutuilians have always received credit for the crime.

The Samoan partition added to our list of potentate subjects a real live king, who will probably be treated with the same policy as applied to the sultan of Sulu. This king, Tui Manua, rules over the island of Manua, or Tau, as it is often called, the largest of a small group of three islands, sixty miles east of Tutuila. Although Manua was classed among the Samoan group, the native subjects of King Tui have always made their own laws and have kept to themselves.

Their potentate, although a Christian, is not permitted to walk, to drink

with coconuts, while the mountains are prolific in breadfruit trees and bananas. There being no fresh water on the island the people drink coconut milk, or from brackish springs. This probably accounts for the drinking restrictions applied to King Tui. The largest coconuts of the world are grown on Manua island, according to A. B. Sternberger, who once visited it as special agent in behalf of the state department. The great shells are used as water vessels. The natives, although Christianized like their ruler, are very primitive and have little in-

tercourse with the outer world. They carry oil and copra in open boats to Apia or Pago Pago for barter. All of these new possessions are free from dangerous animals. In the mountains exist a few wild dogs, believed to be descendants of domestic species left by visiting sailors. Wild hogs also roam in herds in the forests, and the natives say that they antedate the first white visitors. Other fauna are the vampire bat, the flying fox, sometimes four feet from tip to tip of wings, and the remarkable tooth-bill pigeon, with three teeth upon each side of its lower mandible. The principal fishes are the dolphin, monito and mullet.

The most valuable commercial product of Tutuila, Annu and Manua group is the coconut palm, from which copra, used in the manufacture of coconut oil, is obtained by drying the kernel of the fruit. While the coconut crops of the two large islands ceded to Germany have been greatly reduced during the native wars, that of the islands now belonging to us remains unharmed. The breadfruit tree, grown in great abundance, will always supply the natives with their staple article of diet. The fruit furnishes their staff of life, while the wood furnishes the framework of their dome-shaped huts.

SMOKING BY WOMEN.
It Has Become a Common Practice in Aristocratic London Cafes.
"While I was in London last month," said a New Orleans broker who has just returned from a trip across the big pond, "I was greatly surprised at the number of women I saw smoking in public. Of course, one can always see that sort of thing in the bohemian resorts and the cafes patronized chiefly by folks from the continent, but it was something of a shock to bump into it at such establishments as the Savoy and the Hotel Cecil. In both places, and three or four other equally aristocratic, I saw society women puffing cigarettes as coolly as chappies at a roof garden. The spectacle is so common that it has ceased to attract any attention, and it was tolerably evident that the ladies who were indulging did so because they liked it, and not merely to be eccentric. I dropped into the Cafe Royal one evening with a London friend and we were shown to seats in the large public dining room not far from what was evidently a theater party of eight or nine people. They were just concluding a late supper, and one of the ladies, who was the picture of elegant refinement, and by no means in her first youth, produced a jeweled cigarette case and passed it around. In a moment everybody was smoking. The lady was the American wife of a somewhat noted London club man, and was formerly a conspicuous figure in Philadelphia society. I mention the incident merely to illustrate the prevalence of the habit, which reminds me, by the way, that the London of to-day is very different from the London of eight or ten years ago. There is everywhere a marked accession of gaiety and sprightliness; one notices it in the shop displays, the theaters, the restaurants, and the aspects of the crowds at night, and the city in general has much more the air and manner of the great capitals of the continent. The change is particularly noticeable to an infrequent visitor like myself."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

BICYCLE RIDING IN CHINA.
Civilization is at length on the march in China. In the advanced town of Soochow it is reported that so many young Chinamen have taken to riding the bicycle that the authorities have forbidden the practice to all except foreigners, missionaries and converts.

Future of Austria-Hungary.
Bitter race quarrels raging in Austria-Hungary have led European politicians to predict the ultimate absorption of the two parts of Germany and Russia. There are many people who believe that the Kaiser and the Czar have an understanding on the subject. At present the Germans and Slavs hate each other so cordially that they are held together only by their common affection for Emperor Franz Josef. He is old, and when he dies the difference will become more keen. In Austria itself the Czechs and Germans are at daggers' point all the time. The Austrians are Germans and in sympathy with the German empire. On the other hand the Czechs and the Magyars have more in common with the great Slavonic nation to their north and east. At present the situation is not ripe for a dissolution, but when it comes, as is likely after the death of the Emperor, the general belief of European statesmen is that independence of the parts would be short.

FORGETTING NAMES
Leaves One in a Most Awkward and Mortifying Situation.
Among the minor mental complaints with which we are sometimes afflicted, especially in society, is what might be called social aberration, the symptoms being a curious stoppage of the current of thought, which causes us suddenly to be completely oblivious of the subject of conversation and which leaves us ridiculously at loss for an intelligent rejoinder to the remarks of any one with whom we may be talking, says the New York Tribune. One of the many phases of this peculiarity is the forgetting of names with which we ought to be perfectly familiar, leaving us in a most awkward and mortifying situation. This sudden forgetfulness may affect the young as well as the old, but of course with the latter it is immediately ascribed to mental failure. "You know what gracious manners Mrs. X. has," remarked one of her acquaintances, speaking of a certain grand dame. "It was too funny," the other day, at one of her receptions, to see her introduce a visitor to a friend of hers who was stopping in the house. She began with the friend: "My dear, I want to present to you Mrs. ——" and then she stopped. I knew in an instant by the expression of her face that she had forgotten the name. Hastily mumbling something she recovered her self-possession and proceeded, "I know you will be mutually interested," she continued, with a happy inspiration of memory, "as you are both so fond of music. My friend, Mrs. ——" here she stopped again. In her agitation she had forgotten the other name. Another mumble, and then concluding with the words, "a rare performer," she sailed off with dignified and apparent unconsciousness. The two women looked at each other and laughed, having grasped the situation. "I am Mrs. Smith," said one, and "I am Mrs. Brown," replied the guest of the house. "Poor, dear Mrs. X.! Her memory is not as good as it used to be." People have even been known to forget their own names on occasions, without any other sign of mental trouble, and a case of a young woman who forgot the name of her fiancé when asked to introduce him to an acquaintance shows that it is not a failing of old age. It is simply a curious little lapse of memory to which we are all liable.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13.
On the night of December 6 burglars broke into the stores of Sudman & Fish company and A. S. Swanson at Chap-pell, for the third time within seven weeks, and stole several pairs of shoes, pants and overcoats. Mr. Fish of the Sudman & Fish company got track of the burglar at Julesburg, Colo., next morning and followed him to Cozad where he was caught with the goods.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14.
A firm valued at \$300 was stolen from the farm of Herman Rusmond, two and one-half miles north of Baneroot. The rig consisted of a pair of very large black mules owned by Rusmond, with harness and top carriage, the property of S. A. Hathaway.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15.
Wileox Herald: "Three of our nearest neighbors have new babies this week; so any little discrepancy which may appear in the paper will be overlooked."

MINDEN METHODISTS gave a \$500 lift to the Wesleyan university December 3. Minden Methodists have the right sort of religion—it touches pocketbook as well as heart.

But three marriage licenses were granted in Saline county during November. This was the low water mark record in the county's history, remarks the Dorchester Star.

Jones P. Nixon died at the family home near Fairfield a few days ago. He was an Ohioan, a veteran of the civil war, sheriff of Clay county 1881-85. He came to Nebraska in 1871.

A fifteen-year-old son of John Wadman, who resides ten miles southwest of Friend, was accidentally shot with a target rifle while out hunting, the charge entering the lower part of the abdomen. He died later from the wound received.

At Beatrice Sam Roe, son of Dr. and Mrs. G. L. Roe, met with quite a serious accident while playing at school. While running across the playground he collided with a playmate, receiving injuries to his head which rendered him unconscious.

Major General Leonard Wood, the new governor of Cuba, accompanied by his wife, sailed for Cuba Saturday.

A. F. Olmstead, a farmer living near Lushton, York county, Neb., met with a painful and serious accident when shelling corn, by a piece of iron hitting him in the eye, completely destroying the sight.

E. R. Ward, a Kansas City mule buyer, while driving mules at Red Cloud, was thrown from his horse and sustained a double fracture of the leg and was otherwise badly bruised about the face and body.

NEWS OF THE STATE

Ordinary and Extraordinary Happenings.

THE PAST SEVEN DAYS IN DETAIL.

Grief Summary of State Doings—State, County and Municipal News of Importance to Our Busy Readers—Big Items Bolled Down.

Wednesday, December 13.

The preliminary examination of Frank L. Dinsmore was held before E. Frank Brown, county judge, at Kearney. Very few were in attendance, as it was not generally known that he would be brought from North Platte so soon for examination. The complaint was made, charging him with deliberately, premeditatedly and feloniously shooting and instantly killing Fred Laue of Odessa on the night of December 4. Dinsmore entered a plea of "not guilty" and waived further examination.

Mrs. Laue is held under \$10,000 bond for her appearance as a witness for the state in the district court. Dinsmore will remain in the county jail until his trial at the January term of the district court.

Monday, December 18.
At Hartington, Charles Harris, charged with the murder of Hark Blankin, at Belden, Sunday, December 10, was bound over to the April term of district court, and bond was fixed at the sum of \$10,000.

Willie, the sixteen-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Verley, residing five miles northwest of Burwell, shot himself while loading a revolver, the bullet, a 22-calibre entering and lodging in the abdomen. The wound is pronounced fatal.

Charles H. Harrison, who fell from the Lincoln auditorium roof in November, died Friday evening. At the time of the accident, Mr. Harrison sustained severe internal injuries and the fracture of four ribs. It was hoped that he would recover in a short time. Blood poisoning set in from which he died.

Tuesday, December 19.
Poverty would soon be an unknown quantity if men could dispose of their experience at cost.
Nathaniel Johnson, a colored man, who for many years has been a Pullman porter between Chicago and the coast, died at Sidney, Neb., of heart failure as the car upon which he was employed reached the yards.

The state board of public lands and buildings is considering the question of rebuilding the old stone shop at the penitentiary that was destroyed by fire last Friday. The board will look over the ground before taking action.

At Fremont the jury in the case of the State vs. Edward Jerome reached a verdict. Jerome was declared guilty of shooting Sam Pope with intent to do great bodily injury. It took five ballots before the decision was reached and the jury was out just eight hours.

Miss Viola Horlock, charged with the attempted murder of Mrs. Anna Morey in Hastings on the 10th of last April, by means of poisoned bombs, appeared before Judge Beall in district court long enough Monday morning last to have her case again continued and give a renewal of bond for future appearance for trial.

At Nebraska City, as Miss Nellie Curtis, a dining room girl at the Watson hotel, was coming down stairs in response to a call to meet her sister coming from Tecumseh, she was met at the diningroom door by William Battles, a negro porter about the house, who grabbed her and attempted to force her into a room, but she fought him, when he drew a revolver and tried to intimidate her. The night clerk came and the negro escaped. The negro drew his wages that morning and attempted to leave town, but was captured at the Burlington depot by Chief Winton, on whom Battles drew a gun, and was placed in jail.

State School Apportionment.
State Superintendent Jackson has completed the semi-annual school apportionment. The total amount available is \$292,883.59. The money was derived from the following sources:

State tax	\$ 72,000 00
Interest on U. S. bonds	200 00
Interest on state bonds	4,250 00
Interest on county bonds	72,000 00
Interest on school district bonds	672 49
Interest on school lands sold	69,517 00
Interest on salina lands sold	1,403 00
Interest on salina lands leased	1,520 00
Interest on state warrants	12,980 00
Podder's license	85 42
Buffalo Co. national bank	501 30
Total	\$292,883 59



TWO THINGS THAT THE KING IS NOT ALLOWED TO DO.

tally and physically, and have not been corrupted by Mohammedanism. Though Christianized by persistent missionaries since 1830, they retain their crude beliefs in mythological history. The greater number are Presbyterians, a few Wesleyans and a few Roman Catholics.

Women are equal to men, except in government. The father aids the mother in the care of children and the preparation of food. We may have a little trouble stamping out polygamy,

water, nor bathe in the sea. Were he to violate this rule some dire misfortune would be sure to befall his people. It is said that the royal families of Samoa originally sprang from Manua. King Tui therefore prides himself on his blue blood. Manua is one hundred square miles in area, or less than half the size of Tutuila. Tau, the residence of his majesty, is situated on the west coast. Manua rises like a great dome to an elevation of 2,000 feet, but is skirted by a belt of flat land covered