

the other groups in the Pacific. In December, 1840, there was a severe gale, but scarcely what could be called a hurricane. In April, 1850, a hurricane occurred, when two ships and a schooner were wrecked at Apia. For twenty years after this,—that is, up to 1870,—the islands were entirely free from hurricanes; but four or five heavy gales occurred during that period. These hurricanes, when they occur, are often very local: sometimes they visit one island, leaving the others untouched; for instance, in January, 1870, a cyclone swept over Tutuila but did not reach the other islands.

The following are the principal productions of the group:—Cocoa-nuts, cotton, Native chestnut (*inocarpus edulis*), candle-nuts, bananas, mountain plantains, oranges, lemons, limes, citrons, shaddocks, pineapples, mangoes, guavas, Malay apples, rose apples, custard apples, pawpaws, tamarinds, bread-fruit, yams, taro, pumpkins, melons, sweet potatoes, arrowroot, ginger, wild nutmeg, sugarcane, mandioc or sweet casava, indigo, coffee, Indian corn, tobacco, chilis, vi (*spondias dulcis*), medicinal plants, several trees with very fragrant blossoms that might be used for the preparation of scents, some that exude aromatic gum, and others that furnish very handsome and durable wood, suitable for cabinet-ware and furniture.

There are two cotton plantations on Upolu, of from 200 to 300 acres each, belonging to Messrs. Goddefroy, and several smaller ones belonging to other Europeans. Both the Sea Island and kidney cotton grow most luxuriantly, and bear well. When planted in March, the first crop is ready for picking in July. The first year of planting there are two crops, one in July and one in September or October; in succeeding years three crops may be picked.

The chief article of export is cobra, which is the kernel of the cocoa-nut cut into small pieces and dried in the sun. The preparation of cocoa-nut oil has been almost entirely given up by the Natives, as they find that they can get a more rapid and certain return for their labour by the simple process of preparing cobra. The oil is now expressed from the cobra on its reaching Europe. The trade mostly in request by the Natives is white and printed calicoes, (which are known by the general name of "cloth," and are used by both sexes as *lava-lavas* or waist cloths,) gay coloured cotton handkerchiefs, butchers knives, and American axes. The knives most approved of are large heavy ones, of about 14 or 16 inches in length, which the Natives use for all purposes. Soap, sewing cotton, and small fish-hooks come next. Double-barrel guns, powder, lead, and shot, are also in great demand just at present. It is alleged that since the introduction of fire-arms the loss of life in the Native wars is much less than it used to be formerly, when they fought only with clubs and spears at close quarters, as the combatants observe great caution in approaching each other, from fear of the guns, and both sides commence firing a long way out of range.

The British Consul puts down the European population as under:—

British subjects	...	...	...	...	250
Subjects of the United States of America	...	...	...	...	45
Germans, Spaniards, Portuguese, and others	...	...	...	...	150
					445

This must include the half-castes, for I am satisfied, from inquiries I made from old residents and others best able to give information on this point, that the foreign residents do not reach the number here given. I believe there are altogether about 250 Europeans on the group, most of whom are English.

The following statistics of imports, exports, and shipping, for the last five years, were supplied to me by the British Consul:—

Year.	Imports.		Exports.	
	Value.		Value.	
1867	...	£36,600	...	£40,598
1868	...	37,200	...	38,020
1869	...	35,992	...	32,500
1870	...	42,800	...	25,600
1871	...	25,000	...	45,000

The imports in 1871 were less than in previous years on account of the large stocks that were on hand; the increase in exports was caused by the Natives pouring in all the produce they could gather, for the purpose of purchasing arms and ammunition for a war that was going on between two of the tribes.

The arrivals of shipping were as under:—

		No. of Ships.		Tonnage.	
1867.—British	...	26	...	5,991	
Foreign	...	31	...	3,800	
					9,791
1868.—British	...	34	...	8,038	
United States of America	...	5	...	3,072	
German	...	24	...	3,875	
Tahitian	...	2	...	159	
					15,144
1869.—British	...	29	...	4,402	
United States of America	...	3	...	3,690	
German	...	22	...	4,230	
Tahitian	...	2	...	150	
					12,472
1870.—British	...	32	...	4,940	
United States of America	...	6	...	3,791	
German	...	28	...	7,004	
Tahitian	...	4	...	650	
					16,385