

ried on and completed the negotiations respecting the *Casco*, and who telegraphed to Stevenson that the proper boat had been found. All this he told me one evening, with many other recollections of both the visits of R.L.S. to California, as we sat in the library of the Bohemian Club with our eyes frequently turning to one of the best paintings of the writer in existence. My informant was one of Stevenson's best San Francisco friends, and he spent many an evening with him on board the *Casco* in Oakland Estuary. Immediately upon arriving R.L.S. had taken up his quarters aboard the yacht, where he spent many quiet days and evenings, occasionally entertaining a few San Francisco acquaintances, while he recuperated sufficiently to commence the South Sea trip.

Reminiscences of Stevenson in Tahiti

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THE first group to be visited in the southern ocean was that of the Marquesas, and Stevenson wandered for several days about the valley of Typee, where Herman Melville passed his enlivening months as the guest of a cannibal tribe, safe from harm through the intercession of the chief's daughter, "the beautiful Fayaway." Tahiti was reached in September, 1888; and one readily imagines the eagerness with which R.L.S. awaited the first glimpse of what Melville called the "classic of the South Seas." Many a wanderer and many a traveller through these

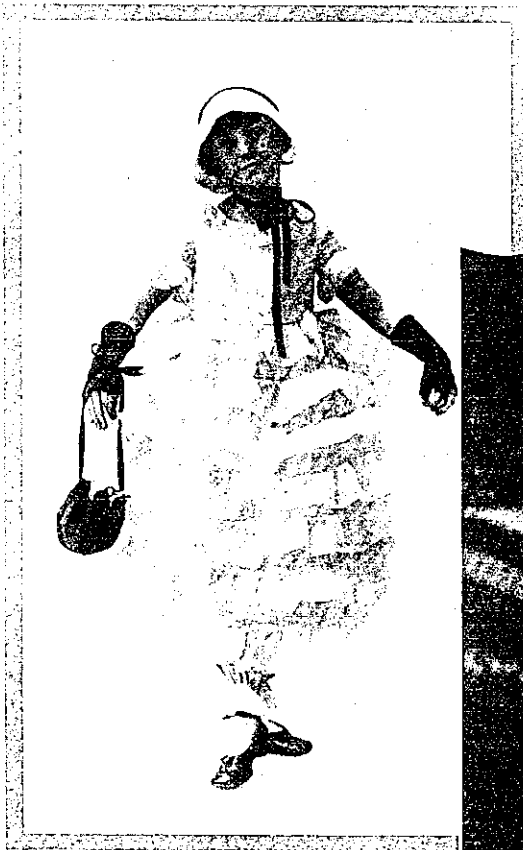
hundred and fifty years has passed into the lagoon at Papeete, between the great gates of coral on which the surf ever tumbles and roars, with a sense of fulfilled dreams; for the aspect is one of the world's fairest. But even forty years ago Papeete, already falling into the hands of the Chinese, was wholly commercial, unromantic, and wrapped in an atmosphere altogether apart from that of the real Tahiti. And so, after a few days, the *Casco* sought the beautiful little Bay of Tautira, at the end of the island, fifty miles from Papeete, the bay where Captain

Cook and the English astronomical expedition had first anchored, in May, 1769.

IN his "Chronicles," Cook wrote of Tautira, "there is scarcely a spot in the entire universe that affords a more luxurious prospect than the southeast part of Otaheite. On viewing these charming scenes I regretted my inability to transmit to those who have had no opportunity of seeing them such a description as might, in some manner, convey an impression similar to what must be felt by everyone who has been fortunate enough to be on the spot." "Baie de Tautira, ou Mouillage de Cook" is the designation of the little lagoon-harbour on the French charts,

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In Fancy Array



"The bearing and the training of a child
Is women's wisdom."

—TENNYSON.

"Come, and trip as you go,
On the light fantastic toe."

—MILTON.

