

# THE SAMOAN WAR.

The pictures which accompany this article are all of special interest, illustrating as they do scenes and incidents in connection with the trouble in Samoa. We are indebted to the Auckland 'Star' for the following vivid description of the most recent events. The writer, who has been through the whole of the war, was an eye-witness of the events he relates. His story opens on the day preceding that on which the R.M.s. Alameda left Samoa, carrying with her the news which was published in our issue of April 22nd.

On Wednesday, the 5th, the Royalist steamed out of harbour for Fitiuiki, with several chiefs on board, who were desirous of collecting their followers together and bringing them over to Mulinuu. She returned on Saturday morning, having 280 natives. Monday she again went out, this time to Safuni, on the island of Savaii, from where rumours had arrived that a large number of natives were undecided as to which side to take. She returned with 130 natives. Friday, the 7th, together with the U.S.s. Philadelphia, she left for Pango Pango to coal from the s.s. Pukaki.

Thursday morning, the 6th inst., the H.M.s. Porpoise went down to Fangatua Bay, accompanied by the steam pinnace (Lieut. T. T. Craven) of the U.S. Philadelphia and 100 friendly natives, under Lieut. Gaunt. A few miles from Apia the village of Utu-mapoo, one of the head-quarters of the rebels, was bombarded at a range of 8000 yards, when some excellent shooting was done. Proceeding on Fangatua Bay was reached about 10 a.m. Steaming up the harbour, the three-pounder Hotchkiss sent a few shots into each village, and the 6-inch forward gun shelled the village and road leading to Apia, at the head of harbour. Under the protection of these guns, and the guns of the steam pinnace and armed cutter (under Lieut. Parker), the natives, or red caps as they are known, were landed; no opposition was shown, however, and the villages of Ili Ili, Musa Musa, Loga, Seinanica, and Faillaga were burnt. The boats returned to the ship laden with loot in the shape of kava bowls, fowls, pigs, etc., all of which, of course, remain in the possession of the friendly natives. The ship returned to Apia the same evening—Friday night, the 7th inst. A start was made for Faliolili, a Malietoan village, on the other side of Upolu. The rain came down in torrents, and the night was as black as pitch. Faliolili was reached early next morning; the chiefs landed, and by 5 p.m., with a cargo of 450 natives, the return journey started. It still continued to rain bucketfuls, and at 8 p.m. a gale of wind was met with. A most disagreeable night was the consequence, especially for the natives, who huddled together on the deck for warmth, and all were glad to see the morning dawn and Apia in sight. Tuesday, the 11th, the Porpoise, accompanied by the steam pinnace (Lieut. Craven) went down to Falifa, a village about 17 miles from Apia, where one of the most beautiful waterfalls in the island falls into the sea. This is the home of Salanoa Maluifi, an adopted son of Mataafa. On reaching this place the pinnace, with Hotchkiss in bows, and armed cutter under Lieut. Parker, and three boats containing 80 natives, under Lieut. Gaunt, started for shore. The friendly natives were landed without opposition, and the burning of the village commenced. The scouts then came running in with the news that the rebels were gathering in force around the house of Salanoa. A move was made in that direction. A few stray shots gave warning that the rebels intended to fight, and soon all hands were hard at it. The pinnace was unable to get inside the reef, and so remained inactive, but the cutter rowed up and down, blazing away with the Nordenfeldt. The rebels were gradually forced back, and after an engagement lasting about an hour were in full retreat, with a few shells from the Porpoise to help them along. Salanoa's house was burnt, and the natives returned with large quantities of loot, and cries of 'Malietoa', Malietoa. Next day information came to hand that

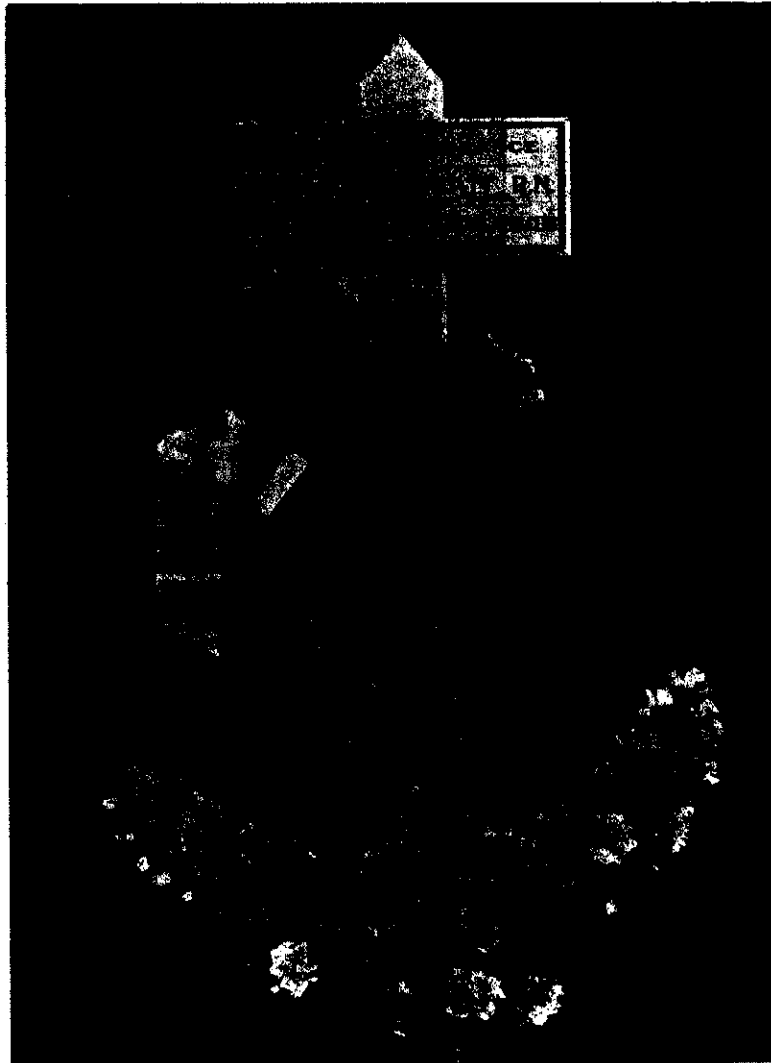
confirmed, the Porpoise once more weighed anchor early on Friday morning, and steamed down the West Coast to Mulafanua. Here the armed cutter, under Lieutenant Parker and the native boat under Lieut. Gaunt started for the shore. On landing a native missionary gave some important information. He stated that the Falke, which had left Apia on Wednesday with the German consul on board, steering a N.N.E. course, had already been to Mulafanua, and the chiefs and Von Bulow had gone off to her. Von Bulow had been advised to remain on board, and to refrain from outward

man story and took it that the ships were leaving Samoa altogether under instructions from their Governments. What will be their feelings now that these ships have returned to Apia as they did do the morning of the Taviani's departure? In the meantime the rebels have fought two severe engagements, and thus are unwilling to come over to the other side or surrender, fearing a more severe punishment than ever. To go back to the landing, however, this was done without opposition, although the missionary informed Lieut. Gaunt that 2000 rebels were collected in the bush close by, the cause of so many being present being that Mataafa's men had come down to hold a 'tatolo' or feast to honour the arrival of the contingent from Savaii. The village was set on fire, and the natives were doing some looting when the rebels opened fire from all sides. Lieut.

the village had been burnt, and four boats destroyed, the Mataafa men had received a severe lesson, while the Malietoan casualties only amounted to three men wounded. During the fighting a trader further down the coast managed to escape from the shore in his boat. He was fired on by the rebels, and several shots hit him. Finding that did not stop him, they set out in their canoes to intercept him, but fearing to get too close to the guns of the Porpoise, gave up the chase. The Porpoise returned to Apia the same evening.

## THE ATTACK ON VAILIMO.

Owing to the tremendous downpour of rain, the land forces have been unable to move about as much as they might desire; the rivers and creeks are all flowing bankers, and as there are no bridges it is almost impossible



Hanna, Photo.

the rebels lost 6 killed and several wounded; the friendly had only one man wounded. On Wednesday, the twelfth, news arrived that Von Bulow had crossed from Savaii with 400 natives to assist Mataafa. This news being active part in the fighting. The chiefs, however, had been advised that instructions had arrived by the s.s. Hauroto from their respective Governments that the English and Americans were to cease fighting, and that Mataafa was to be placed on the throne. It is unnecessary to remark that the English and Americans had received no such news, and that no one word of this was true. Unfortunately two days after the H.M.s. Royalist and U.S. Philadelphia left harbour for Pango Pango to coal, and the rebels naturally believed the Ger-

Gaunt's picked men, now known as the 'ever victorious' owing to their great success since they have started to drill and fight. 'All same English soldiers,' replied in the pluckiest manner, although they knew that they were outnumbered by 20 to 1. A hot engagement lasted for about an hour, when the ammunition of the friendly started to give out, and it was advisable to retire to the boats. This was done in excellent order, the only difficulty being to get some to retire before they had fired their few remaining cartridges. Lieut. Parker, who had been at work with the Nordenfeldt wherever the rebels were pressing hardest, covered the re-embarkation and a return was made to the ship. The day had been a most successful one, important news had been received. In the face of heavy odds

to get across. However, on Saturday, the 9th, the unattached friendly natives under Tamasese went out at 11 a.m. Crossing Mount Vin, they came on the rebels strongly entrenched at Iapalalua. They immediately attacked them, and a spirited engagement took place. Word reached Apia that Tamasese was retiring. Thinking they might have been defeated, Lieut. Gaunt assembled his men and set out up the 16 1/2 road to cover his retreat. Seeing reinforcements arrive, the rebels retired, and soon were in full flight into the bush. The friendly advanced right up to Vailimo, the late R. L. Stevenson's house. The road was found to be blocked with large trees and strong forts at intervals of a quarter of a mile have been thrown up. Lieut. Gaunt had too small a force at his disposal to