

We Have Annexed a Real—HERE HE IS—South Sea Island King

Torgusa, A Full-Fledged Semi-Civilized Monarch of Kusaie



Ancestral Idol from Kusaie Island, One-Fifth Actual Size.

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It is announced by cable from Hong Kong that the United States Government has acquired the island of Kusaie, in the Carolines, as a naval and coaling station.

And by so doing we have unconsciously acquired a real king for a subject.

The Sunday Journal has already introduced to its readers the Sultan of Sulu, the ruler of a peculiarly turbulent and blood-thirsty race which has just been added to the United States. It now takes pleasure in introducing another American monarch of a very different stripe.

The King of Kusaie is named Torgusa. He reigns with the consent of his people in a good natured and beneficent manner.

Most Americans know little about the Caroline Islands. Before the late war they knew nothing. Nevertheless there are Americans who know all about them. The American Board of Foreign Missions

A REAL live King is about to become a citizen of the United States.

He is Torgusa, King of Kusaie.

King Torgusa wears a pair of trousers and a shirt on state occasions, but at other times is content with the native to—a garment about the size of a necktie. Kusaie is one of the Caroline Islands, and will, it is announced, be acquired by the United States as a naval and coaling station. It is rather more than half-way across the Pacific, and is 3,000 miles from Manila. It has a fine harbor, capable of holding all our Pacific squadron.

There are four hundred people in Kusaie, and of these two-thirds are civilized and Americanized. The American missionaries have four churches and four schools on the island.

The King receives tribute from all his subjects, but is very gentle with them or else he would be deposed. He is very lazy, but otherwise a good fellow.

Although a monarchy, Kusaie is a practical democracy. The people do not keep a king unless he is agreeable to them. They resent generally being robbed or murdered by Kings or Spaniards.

The present King, Torgusa, has a curious history. He was of royal, or chiefly, blood, but, having trouble with his family, he went away and worked on a sugar plantation in Hawaii, where he was known as George. Then the old King died, and the people, after examining one or two possible successors, and finding them ineffectual, decided that Torgusa was the man they needed. They sent to Hawaii for him, and he consented to become king.

Torgusa is considered a pretty good fellow by the missionaries, but not up to the standard of his predecessors. He is excessively lazy and addicted to most of the sins of the flesh. Nevertheless he is polite and amiable.

Torgusa lives in a simple house of the native pattern. Its royal character is indicated by the fact that it has two peaked gables. Only the King and the great chiefs are permitted to build their houses in this fashion.

The King has three chiefs under him—the kankar, the sigra and the shirewa. They are related to him and are capable of succeeding him, if he have no children. There are no policemen or other officials, and force is never needed to uphold the simple laws of the community.

The native costume of Kusaie is the to, a strip of plaited straw a little larger than an American necktie. Last year some missionaries went to have audience with King Torgusa at his palace. He happened to be sitting at the front door in the native costume of his native land when the Americans were in sight. He vanished immediately, and one of his servants informed them that His Majesty begged to be excused for a few moments while he prepared to receive them. This shows his native courtesy.

When the Americans saw His Majesty he was dressed in a shirt and a pair of trousers. His palace only contains three rooms, one of which is furnished in the European style, with bedstead and so forth, and is reserved exclusively for missionaries and other white visitors. The King himself sleeps on mats thrown on the floor.

Torgusa's wife, Queen Kenie, is a tall, handsome woman. They have no children.

It was formerly required that the common people should always remain prostrated in the presence of the King. This custom is now modified, and they stand with bowed heads before him until bidden by him to stand erect.

Everybody on the island, including the King and chiefs, is expected to work. They hold the enlightened idea that work is essential to support life in Kusaie is infinitesimal. They fish, shoot birds and raise vegetable food. The latter consists chiefly of taro, a species of yam, and bread fruit. It is only necessary to tickle the soil to produce these.

The Kusaieans are splendid sailors and navigators. They build boats of the catamaran pattern, which are capable of living in any sea, and are astonishingly swift, whether driven by sails or paddles. Much of their time is spent in building these boats, and the King himself does not disdain to work at them.

The Kusaieans have a civilization of their own, which is by no means con-



(From Photograph.)

King Torgusa, of Kusaie, in the Caroline Islands, American Citizen.

air, like many other Pacific Islanders, trousers and a shirt. The former, alas! They worship in a lesser degree idols, they call "pants." They regard the shirt birds and fishes, but there is no cannibalism or brutality about their religion.

A young American woman who has lived among these people declares that they exhibit a far higher degree of practical Christianity than the inhabitants of New York. They come nearer to fulfilling the

The natives living near the ports of Lelu

ary vessels the Morning Star happened to visit Kusaie on the Fourth. The Spanish Governor was visiting the island at the time. He had his headquarters on one side of the island. On the other the natives were gathered under the shadow of a grove of trees, celebrating the day of days. When the American ship came by the natives ran up the Stars and Stripes, and the visitor saluted by firing a gun and running up all her flags. The Spaniards saw the ship saluting, but not the natives. They wanted to know what the salute was for, and had to be content with the answer that it was in their honor.

The people of Kusaie, together with the rest of the Caroline Islanders, have hitherto maintained practical independence. The Spaniards have made several attempts to enslave and tax them, but they have resisted vigorously, and the oppressors have retired discomfited.

The Kusaieans would welcome annexation to the United States, on condition that their monarchy and their peculiar institutions should be respected. They would not expect to be taxed. They have long regarded Americans as better disposed toward them than any Europeans.

They would resent particularly being annexed by the Germans, who have long had their eyes on the Carolines, and will undoubtedly make another attempt to gain a foothold in them, now that Spain is in need of money. The natives have been licensed by the brutal and mercenary habits of the Germans, their language and their manners.

Many of the natives have learnt to speak English from Americans. Their own language is very musical, and the children are now learning to write it in English characters.

As this language is that of our new fellow-citizens, it is worth while to know what it is like. Here, then, is an example of Kusaiean in the form of the Lord's Prayer:

Papa tumus su in kosao, E'los oal payi. Torgusal laios teku. Orek ma nu fwali, ou elos in kosao. Kite kit len el in ma kut mono mslin! A nuok minas nu ges ke ma koluk las, oanu kut nuok minas sin met orek ma koluk nu ses. A tu kol kit kut in mel, a es kit la liki ma koluk, tu tofusal laios, a ku, a mwolann, ma patpat. Amen.

The great value of Kusaie is its magnificent harbor of Selo, on the eastern side. This is formed by a projecting reef on one side and Selo Island on the other. The entrance is wide and free from rocks. So deep is the harbor that at the very edge of the sandy beach there is a depth of from five to six fathoms, enough for American war ships.

No other port in either the North or South Pacific is safer during a storm. In the palmy days of the American Pacific whaling fleet, from 1850 to 1880, ships took refuge there in a storm and stayed in safety until it was calm again.

The island is ten miles in length and six miles broad. North of Selo is Mount Buache, 2,000 feet in height, and between this mountain and the other part of the island is a waterway, partly natural and partly artificial. Here, on the slopes of the enormous basaltic mountains, are found the remains of ancient stone dwellings, built by a former race, of whom the present natives know nothing. They have even no traditions of them.

European travellers who chance upon the island come away enthusiastic over it. Louis Becke, whose tales of the Pacific are winning him fame in London, described it recently. He was there for some time when he was a supercargo for the notorious "Bully" Hayes, who traded through the Pacific.

There is a peculiar feature in the formation of Kusaie Island which adds much to its great beauty and interesting appearance generally. A barrier reef encompasses the island with its curving and irregular outlines, and on this new island have been formed within the last few hundred years. These, though not continuous, make a splendid protection to a series of deep lagoons and tidal waterways which reach from the centre of the east coast almost up to Port Bernard. The vast quantity of vegetable debris and decayed coral thrown upon these protecting islands by the mountain streams on one side and the action of the sea on the other had endowed them with a fairly rich soil, and now great spreading forest trees, the breeding places of millions of sea birds, have risen high above the dense undergrowth, and mingle their branches with those of the graceful cocoa palms which grow in profusion all along this belt. The distance between this peculiar earthen and coral rampart or dike and the mainland is not over three-quarters of a mile at its widest part.

Spain has exercised a nominal sovereignty only over the Caroline Islands. Seeing that they were apparently unconcerned the Germans took possession of them in 1885. Spain protested so vigorously that the Germans retired. After this the Spaniards garrisoned the island of Ponape, with the result that a general uprising of the natives followed.

With 400 Subjects Addicted to Peace and Industry.



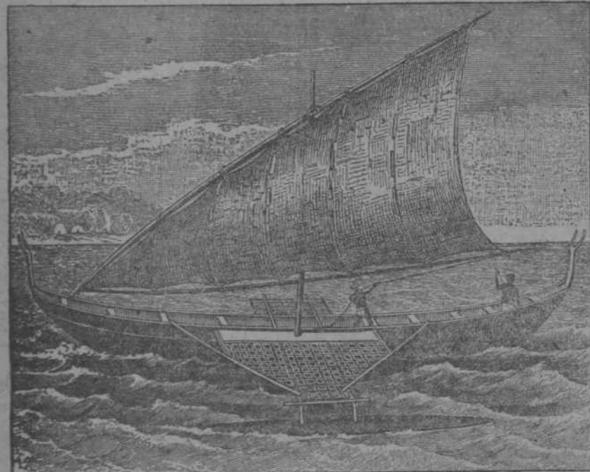
One of the Big Chiefs.

Real Heathen Temples Uncle Sam Now Owns.

UNCLE SAM has not been in the habit of owning much that is heathen, but when he annexed Hawaii he came into possession of some wonderful heathen temples.

The question now arises as to what will be done with them. Native Hawaiians regard them as something much more than historical landmarks, something to link the past with the present, and for years the native kingdom had appropriated money for their careful preservation.

The first mention in civilized records of these buildings appears to have been about 1810. Travellers and missionaries were beginning to enter the country and the most striking objects were naturally the immense piles of stones, totally different



King Torgusa's Royal Yacht, with Outrigger and Sail of Rush Matting.

has labored in the Caroline Islands since 1845, and has maintained a missionary vessel constantly cruising among them since 1850.

It is to a missionary of this organization—Miss Crosby—that the Sunday Journal is chiefly indebted for the information given here concerning the island of Kusaie, its King, its people and its institutions. Kusaie is the headquarters of American mission work in the Carolines, because it has the most salubrious climate and the most amiable people of all the islands Miss Crosby has lived on it.

In the first place it may be well to state that the Caroline Islands are almost too numerous to count, but they lie just north of the equator and that Kusaie, which lies at the western end of them, is about 3,000 miles from Manila. It is therefore a convenient station on the way across the Pacific from America to Asia.



Seast Plate of Mother-of-Pearl, Set in Iron.

Our Fine New Harbor in King Torgusa's Pacific Island.



(From Photograph.)

Four Aged Chiefs of Kusaie, Prominent in the King's Councils.

temptible. It is plainly shown by their carved images and their pottery. The Caroline Islands, by the way, will furnish a fascinating field to American archaeologists and ethnologists, for there are here relics of a highly civilized ancient people, of which there is no history whatever.

The Kusaieans make baskets, garments and many other articles of plaited straw of admirable workmanship and design. In neat little straw bags they pack away bread fruit for use in the winter.

Those who are not Christians worship the Great Spirit of the

rule, "Love thy neighbor as thyself." She are all addicted to American dress. The never heard of murder, brutality or theft King's palace is here. Nearly all the children and young people are also Americanized. There are four churches and four schools on the island, conducted by the American missionaries.

The natives are undoubtedly enthusiastic adherents of America. They have shown this again and again in face of the Spaniards. Since early in the century they have been in the habit of celebrating the Fourth of July by hoisting the American flag and dancing around it. The Spaniards forbade this and tried in every way to prevent it, but in vain. A few years ago the American mission-

From the Christian and American point of view it is a source of satisfaction that the Kusaie Islanders are not addicted to polygamy. In this respect they are very different from the Moros, who were recently described in the Sunday Journal, and from many other races in the Philippines. King Torgusa sets the example by having only one wife. Even if he wanted to have more it would not be permitted. Queen Kenie would object, and so would the Islanders. Women have many rights in Kusaie, astonishing as that may appear. A very significant indication of this is that the descent in the royal family is through the female line.



(From Photograph.)

Selo Harbor, Island of Kusaie, Deep Enough for Large Vessels, Which Uncle Sam Will Use Some Day as a Coaling and Cable Station.



Queen Kenie, the Only Wife of the Monarch of Kusaie Island.

Big and Broad and Deep Enough to Hold Our Largest War Vessels.



Dressed Skull from Kusaie.