

## SAMOA.

*Reigning King.*—Malietoa Laupepa, restored November 9, 1889.

Groups of 14 volcanic islands in the South Pacific, the chief of which are Upolu, Savaii, and Tutuila. At a Samoan conference at Berlin in 1889, at which Great Britain, Germany, and the United States were represented, an Act was signed (June 14), guaranteeing the neutrality of the islands, in which the citizens of the three signatory Powers have equal rights of residence, trade, and personal protection. The three Powers recognise the independence of the Samoan Government, and the free right of the natives to elect their chief or king, and choose the form of government according to their own laws and customs. A supreme court is established, to consist of one judge, who shall be styled Chief Justice of Samoa. He is to be appointed by the three Powers, or, if they cannot agree, by the King of Sweden and Norway. To this court shall be referred (1) all civil suits concerning real property situated in Samoa, and all rights affecting the same; (2) all civil suits of any kind between natives and foreigners, or between foreigners of different nationalities; (3) all crimes and offences committed by natives against foreigners, or committed by such foreigners as are not subject to any consular jurisdiction.

All future alienation of lands is, prohibited with certain specified exceptions. A local administration is provided for the municipal district of Apia.

Area, 1,701 square miles; population, 36,000, of which 16,600 in Upolu, 12,500 in Savaii, 3,750 in Tutuila. The natives are Polynesians, and there are about 300 whites. The natives are all Christians (Protestants and Roman Catholics), and schools are attached to the churches. The trade is largely in the hands of German firms. Imports, 1885, 93,720*l.*; exports, 73,928*l.*; imports, 1887, 87,000*l.*; exports, 71,340*l.* Chief imports, haberdashery, trinkets, arms, ammunition, machinery; chief exports, copra, cotton, and coffee. In 1888 371 vessels (228 German) entered the port of Apia.

*British Consul.*—H. W. B. de Coëtlogon.

### BOOKS OF REFERENCE.

- Papers on Samoa, published by the United States Foreign Office.  
 Report of the Berlin Conference relating to Samoa. London, 1890.  
*Williams* (Rev. J.), Missionary Enterprise in the South Sea Islands.  
*Turner* (Rev. G.), Nineteen Years in Polynesia, 1861.—Samoa. London, 1884.  
*Meinecke*, Die Inseln des Stillen Oceans.  
*Finlay's South Pacific Dictionary.*  
*Wallace* (A. R.), Australasia.