

A VOCABULARY  
of the  
DIALECT OF TOBI, OR LORD NORTH'S ISLAND

(Taken from Horatio Hale, *Ethnography and Philology*, 1846: pp. 107-108).

OF Horace Holden, to whom we are indebted for the following vocabulary, some account is given on page 78.\* Besides the list of separate words, many sentences were written down, for the purpose of elucidating the grammatical structure of the language. It was, however, soon evident that this was expecting too much. The situation in which the captive seamen were placed, was such as to deprive them of all desire of acquiring a better knowledge of the language of their inhuman masters, than was absolutely necessary for the purpose of communicating with them. And even had the desire not been wanting, their opportunities, while constantly engaged in harassing labors, were very unfavorable. They were therefore contented with learning the most common words, which they strung together so as to be intelligible, but with little or no regard to the proper idiom of the language. Thus they had no knowledge of the affixed possessive pronouns, although, from the fact that nearly all the words expressive of relationship (as wütimum, father, micerum, mother, bijium, brother, mianum, sister), and the names of the parts of the body (as, metcemum, head, petcem, foot, kusum, beard, tcim, hair) terminate, as given by Holder), in m, which, in the other languages of this division, expresses the pronoun thy, we can hardly doubt, that this class of affixes really exists in the dialect of Tobi. Notwithstanding these deficiencies, the vocabulary is valuable, as showing beyond a doubt that this little community is a branch of the ethnographical family which extends from Eap to the Kingsmill Group; and it is not improbable that by means of it, the very subdivision of this family to which the natives of Tobi belong, will hereafter be discovered, and their origin thus determined.

Most of the words which follow are identical with those given by Mr. Pickering, in his Appendix to Holden's Narrative. Where any difference exists, it has been noted.

\* Mr. Holden is now engaged in business at the Sandwich Islands, where he is much esteemed for his probity and intelligence.

TOBIAN VOCABULARY

Absent (out of sight), yutamem	Dark, kloowaizäris (see black)
Air (the open air) gutum. War a gutum, out of doors	Day. yaro (see sun)
And, ma	Dead, puruk, mati

Away, mora	Dig, katcup
Back, tukalek	Dirty, abu
Backward (or hitherward?), batci (see come)	Drink, limi (lima, P.)
Bad, tuma or tamä	Eat, moka
Bamboo, cil	Far, yatau. Very far, yatau ve
Beard, kusum	Father, wutimum
Belly, micium	Finger (or hand), kaimuk
Bird, karum (or rather sea-gull)	Fire, yaf
Black, waizeris or waizaris	Fish, ika.
Bone, tcil	Fish, to, vizivic a ika
Box, tovetiv	Fish-hook, kauorika (or kau wor ika)
Boy, werewedj a mare	Fishing-net, cibo
Brass, molabadi	Fish-line, yao
Breast (also milk), tut	Fly (s.) lan
Brother, bijium	Food, okrum
Bye-and-bye, tupai vai tut (see wait)	Foot (or leg), petcem
Canoe, prao	Girdle (of men) vetivet
Carry, wahogi or wohogi	Girdle (of women) vetiveti
Child, labo	Girl, werewedj a vitivi
Cloth, clothes, ligo	Give, wacito, or kacito; li
Cloud, katco	Go, bitu. Go away, mora-bitu
Cocoa-nut, karäpa	God, yäris
Cocoa-nut, very young, tco	Good, yisuu; mapia
Cocoa-nut, partially ripe, süb	Grass, ware
Cold, makrazrn.	Hair, tcim
Come, taitu; bitux'c; butt	Hand, kaimuk
Come back, batci, bitu	Hatchet, tapöi
Converse, to, titinup	Head, metcemum
Cord, string, krel (kril, P.)	Here, atia (atidi, P.)
Cry, to, tay	House, yim
Dance, to, kokam	Hungry, ma

I, nau	Sick, makakes
In, wor	Sister, mianum
Iron, panul; picu	Sit, matitu
Iron-hoop, tsipa	Sleep, muse (or mumatidi, P.)
Kill, mate	Small, patcik; patcigitci. Very small, patcigitcigi; (qu. pa-tcikitciki or patikitiki? In the dialect of anabe, tikitik is small.)
Kind (see good), mapia	Star, uic
Knife, wase	Stay, remain, mumutidi
Large, yenup	Stone, vas
Lau ge, mimi	Strong, yakailu

Leafe, trila	Sun, yaro
Lie, repose, to, retu	Talk, titri, titinup
Lightning vijik	That, mena
Lizard, pilel	There, etunai
Man, amare	Thou, gu
Many, pipi	Throw, kutcivara
Milk, tut (see breast)	Thunder, nepa (pa, P.)
Moonmokum	To-morrow, warazura
Mother, micerum	To-night, nibo
Musquito, lam	Tortoise, wari
Name; what is your name? verameta gu? What is the name of that? metamen a mena?	Understand, gora
Near, yupapeto	Very, kloo; ve
Night (or to-night), nibo	Wait, tupai
No, ta; tai	Warm, wubotc
Old, adult, mazui. Very old, mazui a ve	Wash, bathe, watuti
Paddle, vetel	Water, fresh, taru
Pregant, yisei	Water, salt, tat
Rain, ut	Wave, rau
Rat, ketcietci (tomium, P.)	Whale, kas
Red, yeuana	What; (see name)
Reef, rau	White, butcibotc
Rope, tari	Why, ba
Sacred, yetup; tabu; (the latter word introduced hby Pitu Kat. See page 78)	Wind, yay
Sand, pi	Wood, tumotci
Sea, salt water, tat	Woman, vaivi, vaiivi
See, miagi	Yam, kuri
Set, as the sun, moribo (qu. mora i bo, away in the night?)	Yellow, aran
Shark, po	Yes, ila
Ship, wawe	Yesterday, ralo
Short, yamot	

Sa or za is a very common verbal particle, used with all the tenses; as, guza yutamen, thou wert absent or away; nan sa bitu, I will come; gu a nan sa muka, though and I eat; gu za miagi pipi a prao, dost thou see many canoes? These sentences, however, as has been before remarked, can hardly be relied upon as showing the real idiom of the language.

## NUMERALS

There are three classes of numerals, --the first of a general nature, the second appropriated to counting cocoa-nuts, and the third used only for fish. They are as follows:

GENERAL	FOR COCOA-NUTS	FOR FISH	
yat	su	simul	one
glu (gulu, P.)	gluo (guo, P.)	gwimul	two
ya	suru	srimul	three
uan	vau	vamul	four
yanim (nim, P.)	limo	nimul	five
yawor	waru	waremul	six
yavic	viju	vijiemul	seven
yawa	wariu	waremul	eight
yatu	tiu	tiuemul	nine
yasek	sek	sek	ten
	sekama su		eleven
	sekama gluo		twelve
	seka ma suru		thirteen
	seka ma vau, etc.		fourteen
	guek (guwek, P.)		twenty
	surik		thirty
	varik		forty
	limek		fifty
	warik		sixty
	vijik		seventy
	warik		eighty
	tiuik (tiuwik, P.)		ninety
	subun or subuy		hundred