

The dances resemble the evolutions of a company of soldiers: the two parties stand in rows, either facing each other, or back to back, or else both face inwards; their motions are confined to the body and arms; the legs, though not entirely at rest, seldom have much action; at times the arms are thrown out from the body, when they give a rapid quivering motion to the fingers, clap their hands together, and afterwards slap them with great force against the thighs and breast, while the body is rocked to and fro. Every movement is made in perfect unison by the whole party, who all keep time with a monotonous song. In their dances the great object is to make as much noise and commotion as possible. Their full-moon feasts are the only periodical ones they have.

At the marriage of a great chief there are great rejoicings, attended with dances and songs; the latter are composed for the occasion, reciting the greatness of the chief, and the prowess and character of his ancestors.

The regular monthly festival does not prevail at Makin Island.

On Taritari a great feast is held about midwinter, in honour of Teouki, the grandfather of the present king, who is considered by them as the most illustrious man the island has ever produced.

There are many other amusements: among them foot-ball, sailing small canoes, swimming in the surf, and flying kites. The kites are made of the pandanus-leaf reduced to half its thickness, which renders it lighter than paper; and they are prettily shaped. In swimming in the surf, they have a small board like that used by the Sandwich Islanders.

One of their sports differs from any we have seen, and appears to be peculiar to themselves. It is a game in which dancing, fencing, and singing, are combined, which produces a very animated and gay spectacle, from the numbers engaged in it, which are often from one to two hundred of both sexes. This sport takes place in an open space, by moonlight. Each young man chooses a partner from the other sex, and they arrange themselves in two rows, the partners facing each other as in our country-dances. Two couples form a set, and always remain together, but are continually changing places with the rest. Every one is provided with a light stick of the stalk of the cocoanut-leaf. At a given signal they begin their song, and the dancers strike their sticks together, as if playing at single-sticks, keeping time to the song; at stated points they change places with those next below, and each in turn reaches the head. As these changes all go on simultaneously, the song and clatter of sticks are kept up without interruption, and in excellent time. If a person misses a stroke, there is much