

MY TRIP TO SAMOA

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My trip to Samoa by Bartlett Tripp

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BARTLETT TRIPP

**MY TRIP
TO SAMOA**

MY TRIP TO SAMOA

TO VISIT
UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA



HOME OF ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON AND PORTION OF MOUNTAIN
ON WHICH HE IS BURIED

UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA

MY TRIP TO SAMOA

BY

HON. BARTLETT TRIPP

*Ex-Minister to Austria, and
Head of the Samoan Commission*



THE TORCH PRESS
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1911

FOREWORD

During the first administration of President McKinley, in 1899, troubles arose over the government of the Samoan Islands in the Southern Pacific. The Berlin Treaty of 1889, entered into by the English, German, and American governments, under which officers had been named and a government sought to be established, had proven unsatisfactory to all parties, and an insurrection arose. Hon. Bartlett Tripp, of Yankton, South Dakota, who had been Minister to Austria under President Cleveland, headed a commission of representatives of the three governments named through whose efforts peace on the islands was established and a permanent government given to them. Mr. Tripp here gives the first full and comprehensive account of the entire situation, and

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it is felt the publication of the same, in this form, will be found pleasing to the many who have an interest in a region made famous by Robert Louis Stevenson.

MY TRIP TO SAMOA

ON the 10th of April, 1899, I received a telegram from Washington inquiring, "Will you go as Commissioner to Samoa?" Being free from engagements and not knowing what was expected or required of "a Commissioner to Samoa," but influenced by a spirit of adventure inspired by the brief telegram of inquiry, I promptly answered "Yes," and commenced immediate investigation as to where Samoa was and what occasioned the appointment of a Commissioner thereto. I did not care to have it known that I was utterly ignorant as to the geographical position of these islands or the history of events which had so suddenly culminated in an international High Joint Commission to restore peace and establish a provisional government thereon.

8 MY TRIP TO SAMOA

I was enabled to plead confession and avoidance when I found upon consulting my geography that these islands were known when I was a student and until a comparatively recent date as the "Navigators Islands," and I was still more encouraged when upon apparently casual mention of the troubles in the Samoan Islands I found that others with whom I conversed were as ignorant as myself of their location and of the trouble existing there. I commenced a careful search of the current events published in the periodicals and magazines of the day, but before I had fairly informed myself of the extraordinary events which had led to the appointment of such a commission, and relying upon the usual time of at least a month in which to prepare myself with geographical and historical information as well as to place my business matters in shape for an indefinite absence, I was startled by a telegram from the Secre-