

THE WAR IN SAMOA. THE WAR IN GREAT BATTLE EXPECTED. SAMOA. GREAT BATTLE EXPECTED.

APIA, October 27. **Apia, October 27.**

SINCE the evacuation of Mulinuu by Tamasese, an armed company of marines

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parade the streets to the German Consulate,

This Item

where a guard is now kept night and day,

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German stores and another at Mulinuu.

All kinds of reports are abroad as to Mataafa's immediate intentions, but it is questionable whether he has determined on any movement until some of his supporters come from Savaii. Mataafa, by continuing the war without giving the Savaii people a chance to take part in it, would probably offend them; Samoans are particular on war etiquette, and the course Mataafa is evidently following is in accordance with recognised custom. The Savaii contingent is expected any hour; then a terrible battle is almost a certainty.

Tamasese and Mr Blandeis, his adviser and head of his Government, in withdrawing from Mulinuu Point, went to the only available place left them that would be suitable for concentrating their forces, the district of Atua. It is one of the best positions on the island to resist a siege. Tamasese's Government are well supplied with war material. They are also supplied with money, having only recently received a large amount of taxes, and it is currently reported in Apia that they have obtained a supply of dynamite from somewhere. Since they arrived at Atua they

where. Since they arrived at Atua they have erected strong fortifications, so with all these advantages they may very likely make a formidable stand even against superior numbers, and the besiegers must be prepared for a stubborn resistance. Mataafa, on the other side, to maintain his position must attack Tamasese's soldiers. He has a large army at his back, and more coming. Four-fifths of the Islands have acknowledged him, so that his ultimate success, even if he is repulsed at Atua, will only be delayed and blood spilt for no purpose.

It is well known here that if the three Consuls of England, America and Germany were unanimous in desiring the war to cease it would be concluded at once by a scratch of their pens. A serious mistake has already been made by meddling with the chosen King of the people, and this war is unquestionably the result of that thoughtless action. If Germany still persists in supporting Tamasese against the large majority of the Samoan people it will not only result in great slaughter now, but give a lease for disturbance, disaffection and loss of life for years. There is no knowing where it may end. Mataafa's followers may be driven to frenzy, and then would we be safe ourselves?

A meeting of European residents was held here on the 24th instant—Mr Campbell in the chair—to protest against an outrage reported to have been committed by German sailors and which might have resulted in serious trouble. Mr Cairuthers stated that about eight o'clock on the evening of 23rd October, a native boat which was pulling close to the shore and in front of his dwelling house, was fired upon from the boats of H.L.G.M.S. Adler. The volley was

fired inland ; the bullets pierced his office and several dwelling houses close by, three shots being fired into Ah Ling's store a few yards from his premises. All this property is fronting the main street and included in the lately proclaimed neutral territory ; not one shot being returned by the natives. He had no hesitation in saying it was one of the most unjustifiable attacks he had ever heard of. The natives were fired upon first from the shore near the German Consulate while they were quietly pulling homewards, singing their native songs. They were followed up by boats and again fired into opposite his premises. It is time such conduct should be ended. The German boat's crew never considered the lives of the foreign residents when that volley was fired, although they must have known that the bullets must strike their houses. All sorts of excuses have been given for firing at the boat ; one of them being that the natives had landed at Mulinuu and there committed depredations. This the speaker asserted was positively incorrect. He challenged anyone to prove that charge against the natives. He knew positively that they did not commit depredations at Mulinuu. The natives were out all the evening trying to pick up a gull at sea in several fathoms of water, and after some hours fishing for it they found it and were quietly bringing it home.

The principal resolutions arrived at by the meeting were as follows :—(1) "That this meeting protests against the high-handed outrage committed last night by an armed boat from the German man-of-war by firing upon defenceless Samoans, and into the houses of foreign residents within the neutral territory." (2) "That a committee be appointed to wait upon the

British and American Consuls with a copy of the foregoing resolution, urging the necessity of immediate action being taken to prevent the recurrence of similar outrages. The Committee to consist of Messrs Maben, Carruthers, Moors, Paul, Fletcher, and Krause." (3) "That this meeting thanks Malietoa for his forbearance from taking retaliatory measures, out of respect for the lives and property of the foreign residents in Apia, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to King Mataafa."

At a subsequent meeting it was reported that the United States Vice-Consul had received a communication from the German Consul detailing particulars of the outrage. The German Consul's letter stated that no shots were fired into the town from the German boats. If any shots were fired it must have been by the natives. This meeting resolved to place satisfactory proof of the correctness of their assertions before the German Consul.

The following notice has been issued by the British Consul:—"All British subjects are hereby notified that a force of marines from Her Britannic Majesty's ship Lizard has been landed, and will garrison Her Britannic Majesty's Consulate until further orders. All British subjects desiring better protection than can be afforded in their own residences, can avail themselves of this opportunity at any hour of the day or night.—H. DE COETLOGAN, A.B.M.'s Consul, Apia, 24th October, 1888."