

GREETINGS TO SAMOAN CHIEFS.

Message of Congratulation Sent by President Roosevelt on Cession of Tutuila.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26.—In consequence of the voluntary act of loyalty on the part of the people of Tutuila in ceding to the United States the sovereign rights of that and other islands, President Roosevelt has sent them a message of greeting, and, in addition, has presented each Chief who signed the instrument with a silver watch and chain and a silver medal.

The President's greeting, which was sent to each Chief, is as follows:

"Greeting: Whereas the Chiefs and people of the Islands of Tutuila, Aunuu, and neighboring small islands, have, of their own free will and pleasure, for the promotion of the peace and welfare of the people of said islands, for the establishment of a good and sound Government, and for the preservation of the rights and property of the inhabitants of said islands, solicited of the United States of America its supervision and protection; and,

"Whereas this desire has been expressed by the hereditary representatives of the people of said islands in a declaration dated the 17th day of April, A. D. 1900, executed according to Samoan custom, and pledging allegiance to the Government of the United States of America;

"Therefore, I, Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States of America, do hereby express to the Chiefs and people of said islands the gratification of the Government and people of the United States in receiving from the Chiefs and people of the said islands this token of their friendship and their confidence in the just and friendly intentions of the United States. The local rights and privileges mentioned in said declaration will be respected, and it is our earnest hope that peace, happiness, and prosperity may make their permanent abode with the good people of these islands.

"White House, Washington.

"THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

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