

THE POLYNESIAN.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, AT HONOLULU, OAHU, HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

J. J. JARVES, EDITOR.]

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1844.

[NEW SERIES, VOL. 1.—No. 27.]

POETRY.

From the Miscellaneous Poems of Coleridge.
BEARETH ALL THINGS.
2 COR. XIII, 7.

Gently I took that which ungently came,
And without scorn forgave:—Do thou the same.
A wrong done to thee think a cat's eye spark
Thou wouldst not see, were not thine own heart dark.
Thine own keen sense of wrong that thirsts for sin,
Fear that—the spark self-kindled from within,
Which blown upon, will blind thee with its glare,
Or smother'd, stifle thee with noisome air.
Clap on the extinguisher, pull up the blinds,
And soon the ventilated spirit finds
Its natural daylight. If a foe have kenn'd,
Or worse than foe, an alienated friend,
A rib of dry rot in thy ship's stout side,
Think it God's message, and in humble pride
With heart of oak replace it;—thine the gains—
Give him the rotten timber for his pains!

COMMUNICATED.

MAKAWAO, East Maui, }
November 4th, 1844. }

Dear Sir.—You request information of your friends on Maui respecting the wheat lands on this Island. I suppose your enquiries relate chiefly to lands in Kula; for although wheat has been cultivated at Wailuku, on West Maui, and cultivated more systematically than at Kula, yet it is of an inferior quality decidedly—a smaller berry, and the flour of a less delicious flavor. As I am in the vicinity of the wheat lands in Kula, I take great pleasure in communicating all the information in my power. I will also forward you a sample of the wheat by the earliest opportunity, in season to send to your Maryland correspondent.

I have had more or less acquaintance with the Kula country for the last twelve years, and I have lately been over some parts of it with my eye on your enquiries. These I proceed at once to answer, and in the order in which you made them:

"THE EXTENT OF LAND CAPABLE OF BEING CULTIVATED WITH WHEAT?"—You will please bear in mind that the experiment of raising wheat on East Maui, has been made to a very limited extent only. One or two konohikis have cultivated small fields for government, raising annually from five to ten bushels; but this they have not done for the last two years. Besides these, I do not think that twenty individuals have raised wheat in Kula. It is difficult, of course, to judge correctly of the extent of land capable of being cultivated, i. e. cultivated successfully, so as to afford promise of fair compensation for labor expended. I will however speak of lands capable of being sown to wheat, and some portions of which, I doubt not would produce plentifully. 1st. There is a strip or belt of land of from two to four miles in width, I should judge, for no measurement has been made—gradually ascending and terminating at the base of Haleakala, the high mountain of East Maui. The upper part of this belt is, I presume, in the region of frost, it being 4,000 feet or more above the level of the sea. This land is higher up the mountain than the land occupied by the people, only now and then a house being seen, and these occupied temporarily by canoe makers. This belt of land extends from Makawao, say from Mr. McLane's sugar plantation to Honuaulu, some fifteen miles I should judge. 2d. The land below the belt above described, among the habitations of natives, and where they cultivate the sweet potatoe, banana and sometimes dry kalo, is capable, much of it, of being cultivated with wheat. Nearly all the wheat that has been raised was produced here. 3d. The best land which I have seen in Kula for wheat or any thing else, is the land which produces the Irish potatoe.—This is a strip of land commencing near the middle of Kula, and extending to Honuaulu. It commences about mid-way from the habi-

tations of the natives and the mountain, and may be three-fourths of a mile in width. The best of this land is among trees of considerable size; the Naie, the Mamani, and the Pua, all timber of excellent quality, though many of them have been destroyed by the action of fire. The trees are curtained to the very tops with the palunu, a very luxuriant vine, which greatly abounds on this tract of land, covering the entire surface where not destroyed by cultivation, and which seems to revel in the fatness of the soil. This soil is a black loom, easily wrought and which repays, in large increase, the labors of the cultivator. The native population, not only of Kula, but of other parts of Maui, seem aware of the value of this land. Considerably large portions of it are already planted with the Irish potatoe, and some of the people are beginning to build in the vicinity.

"QUALITY OF THE SOIL?"—So far as I can judge by a slight inspection when passing through the land, and seeing the productions of different places, I should say there is considerable variety in the soil. The entire country is undoubtedly of volcanic formation. This no one can doubt who ascends the mountain above, a height of nearly 10,000 feet, the sides of which are covered with lava of every variety of shape and decomposition; and who finds himself standing on the brink of a tremendous crater, say from 12 to 15 miles in diameter, and some 2,000 feet deep; and who looks down upon the yawning mouths of more than a dozen craters below; or who descends into this fearful abyss, and is astounded on perceiving that these craters below are mountains of no inconsiderable height. The fires of this volcano are extinguished; or they are sleeping till He who once caused them to roll their burning waves over the plains below, carrying dismay and desolation in their train, shall bid them wake. Such being the foundation of the island, the soil is, of course, decomposed lava, scorix, ashes, &c., and is rich or sterile according to the state of decomposition. On the upper belt, near the base of Haleakala, the land is covered with a long coarse grass, ohelo bushes and strawberry vines. Now and then may be seen a tree of considerable size, and clumps of young koa are frequently met with; but on the whole there is a destitution of timber.—How wheat would grow here remains to be seen. Of the land where the Irish potatoe grows so abundantly, I have already spoken. If spared, I design to have a small field cultivated there the present season. Below this among the habitations of the people, the lava is less decomposed than higher up the mountain; in many places the land is exceedingly stony and rough. Still, in the valleys the soil is quite rich, and even among the half decomposed lava sweet potatoes, contrive to grow to quite a respectable size. Here as I have already remarked, the Kula wheat has hitherto been raised.

"OF ITS PRODUCTS."—The few individuals who have cultivated wheat have selected the richest spots in their neighborhoods.—The patches that I have seen, "few and far between," have generally been in valleys, not deep, but of sufficient depth to afford shelter from the occasional strong winds. These valleys of course are richer than the hills above them, or than the plains, as they have been the channel, from time immemorial, for the rains from the mountain to the plains below. The process of decomposition has been more rapid here than elsewhere.—The products of wheat have therefore been great—I would say prodigious, did it not seem to border on the ridiculous to apply so strong a word to a patch of wheat six rods in length,

by two in with! You will see that the above experiment furnishes scarcely a better criterion for judging of the capability of the land, as a whole, than the corner of a farmer's barn-yard sown to grain, would furnish of the fertility of his entire farm. Still it is literally true, that the product of wheat, in Kula, in proportion to the seed sown, has been bountiful. If the people have "reaped sparingly," it is because they have "sown sparingly." I do not wonder that so little attention has been paid to the raising of wheat.—You are aware that the natives of the island do not wish it for their own consumption.—They might be taught to love it; and even now not a few would relish a biscuit of their own raised wheat, especially if well buttered. This however is mere talk. They do not need nor do they desire, the change from their favorite "fish and poi" to wheaten bread. They raise the grain therefore for the sake of gain; and they have found on trial that the gain is small. They have no means of threshing nor cleaning it. They have hitherto, for the most part, rubbed the grain out by hand, and blown off the chaff with their mouth! carried the wheat to Lahaina or Wailuku, and received in return one dollar per bushel. There is a great and increasing demand for Irish potatoes. These are more easily raised, and they afford a greater profit. Can any one think it strange that the natives of Maui raise so little wheat? In good time, I hope facilities for cleaning the grain will be obtained. I think we shall have a barn at Makawao in the course of the next year, and that wheat will be more easily obtained than at present. The wheat, as you will see, is fair, plump, and heavy. I recently weighed a bushel, and its weight was 63 lbs. Nothing like smutty grain have I seen thus far; nor does cockle and the etcetera which spring up so copiously in the rich fields of our country, here disturb the growth of the precious wheat.

"DOES IT BEAR MORE THAN ONE CROP ANNUALLY?"—I answer no; and yet I am not quite satisfied with the answer. I am not farmer enough to tell the reason why two or more crops may not be produced in a year. Let me tell you when the wheat is sown. Perhaps your Maryland correspondent can tell us more than we know of wheat growing.—August and February are the months for sowing. The wheat in both cases ripens in June or July. Is it spring wheat? if so, why does not the August sown ripen sooner? Is it winter wheat? why then does it come to maturity in three months?

"IS IT EASY OF CULTIVATION?"—The plough has not been used in Kula, nor could it be used to much advantage where wheat has hitherto been cultivated. Much of the upper belt could be ploughed, and on the whole, I should judge that the cultivation would not be difficult. In the valleys among the habitations of men, the land can easily be cultivated in native style.

"IS THERE WATER POWER SUFFICIENT FOR A MILL IN THE VICINITY?"—No, nothing of the kind, from Makawao to Honuaulu. Scarcely water enough in Kula to save the cattle, which would be needed to cultivate the land, from drying. Water is the great desideratum in this part of the islands; of course, a mill for the manufacturing of wheat, is out of the question. Wailuku is the nearest place where a mill could be erected for the above purpose. This place is from 16 to 20 miles distant from Kula.

I have thus replied to your inquiries respecting the wheat lands on East Maui. I have also read, carefully, the letter of your correspondent, and I think my answers will give him all the information that he will need, so far as Maui is concerned. I will however

add, that vegetation in the whole region of Kula is frequently injured, and sometimes wholly destroyed by the Peelua, or worm of the caterpillar species, and no means of ridding the country of this destructive insect have been discovered. Its ravages often cause a famine. The drought too is often severe. Otherwise, the country is a pleasant one, and the climate delightful.

Affectionately yours,
JONA. S. GREEN.

J. J. JARVES, Esq. }
Honolulu, Oahu. }

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

ADVANCE OF CIVILIZATION.—A recent letter from a missionary in Siam, furnishes among others, the following facts: When the first missionaries arrived, a few years since, only three or four square rigged vessels visited there annually, and not a single one was owned by the Siamese. Now there are many such; fifty-one have been reported the last two years. The Siamese have thus gained more correct views of foreign nations and obtained many articles of comfort, especially the wealthy classes. They have built vessels after the European models, and in order to sail them successfully, have paid considerable attention to navigation and the sciences connected with it. Ten square-rigged vessels, some of them of large size, have been recently built, and others are in progress. Their intercourse with Christian nations is also interesting, from the fact that no heathen nation has been able to sustain idolatry under such circumstances. They may have become infidel when not furnished with Christian instruction; but the grossness of idol worship does not withstand the lights of science.—Salem Gazette.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—ABOLITION OF THE PORT DUES.—We are happy to announce to the shipping interests all over the world, that the port, anchorage, and light-house dues, or any other description of port charges whatever, in every port of this colony, in respect to all vessels, whether British or foreign, are from this day abolished.

THE CUNARD STEAMERS.—The New York Sun says that the hopes that have hitherto been entertained by many of the New Yorkers, that this noble line of steamers would alter its arrangements and sail from New York instead of Boston, have been effectually frustrated by the renewal, for the term of ten years, of the present contract with the British Government, for the semi-monthly conveyance of the mails between Liverpool, Halifax and Boston.

CHINESE SUGAR.—The rapid increase of the demand for British goods in China since the close of the war and the opening of the ports, and the prospect that the demand will be increased to a much greater extent, as the people in the northern provinces of that populous empire become better acquainted with the cheapness and excellence of British manufactures, render it a matter of great consequence that the number of articles received in return from that country should be increased, and it is, therefore satisfactory to learn, that there is a prospect of our receiving a considerable quantity of sugar from China under the new scale of duties mentioned by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his speech on the Budget. We see from Mr. Bernard's interesting account of the voyages and services of the Nemesis, that there are large sugar manufactories on some of the islands in the Canton river, and we learn from our friends who have resided at Bombay and Singapore, that Chinese sugar and sugar-candy, of excellent quality and moderate price, are imported in large quantities into India and the Indian Islands. From a statement in one of the Singapore papers, it appears that 5,889 pikuls (133½ lbs. each) of Chinese sugar were imported into that port in 1843, chiefly in Chinese Junks, and as the sugar had to be sold in competition with the cheap sugars of Manilla, Java, Siam and Cochin China, the price cannot have been excessive. The belief of several well informed persons is, that Chinese sugar is likely to be imported into England to a considerable extent.