

Letter for Lahaina.—No. 3.
HONOLULU, Sept. 6, 1846.

My Dear Solomon:

"Coming events cast their shadows before." So sang the poet, but I think in Honolulu of late they cast their shadows behind. Our town has been all agog for a month past looking to see St. George's cross waving over our heads, and retribution dire on the King's servants backs. But eyes are dimmed with watching and heads are yet on their owners shoulders. Hawaii's banner still flaunts it gaily upon its accustomed height gladdening the hearts of the faithful. Listen, O Solomon, and I will tell you a tale all of the latest time.

In the days of King Kamehameha, respected of strangers from far lands, in the third year of his independence, in the month of August, there came unto his chief town a huge ship, filled with fighting men, and great guns and little guns, and of every sort of weapon for killing man and to do battle stoutly.

Now this ship was from the Queen of the waters, who liveth in the uttermost east. And this Queen, whose shadow overhangeth the earth, more famous than she of Sheba—sent her servant, a chief captain of her vessels, a mighty man of valor, with much understanding—to tell her fame abroad and scatter her wisdom among all nations in the great ocean Pacific.

And lo, there came with him many other ships, all strong and filled with fighting men, and having in them great chiefs, commanders, having knowledge of the sea. And these all came to the capital town of King Kamehameha.

Now the King Kamehameha was of stout heart and not afraid, for he trusted in the faith of the great Queen of the waters, who had told him to be always of good cheer. She was his friend.

But it was told his subjects that these fighting men and fighting ships had been sent for to take their King's land and people from him, and to give them for a spoil to the mighty conqueror from the golden land. And then went great fear abroad among them; for they grieved exceedingly at being turned from the lands of their fathers and their inheritance given over to a stranger.

Great perplexity came upon them therefore, and their hearts failed them through fear.

Now it was noised about so that it came to be believed, that the King's servants, even those that administered in his household, his scribes and mighty men of wisdom, were to be driven out of the land.

About this time there came forth writings, calling upon the strangers in the country to render up to the great landlord an account of their lands and houses, and it would be of service to them.

And some did and some did not.

Then was the great landlord angered, and he called upon King Kamehameha to listen to him that he might save himself and his kingdom.

But the King gave to his own advisers, which but angered the great landlord the more, and he made war upon them with terrible words.

He gathered to himself the ships and their captains.

Great trembling came over the land for the people were weak. But their trust was in the Lord.

And the Lord raised up for them a friend in the chief captain of the ships. He listened to their cries and took heed to their sayings. So that their story went forth, and the great captain pitied them, for he saw they were weak. And the King and the Captain met face to face, and discoursed much, so that the King's desires became known to him, and he spoke words of comfort to the King and his servants.

Now it came to pass after much talk, and being many days together, that the eyes of the chief officers were opened, and the heart of the King warmed towards the chief officers and they became his friends, for his words found favor in their ears.

When all this came to be known, the people rejoiced, for their desire was, that there should be peace and good will between them and the servants of the Queen of the waters. And this has come to pass. The people fear no more for their lands and their houses, nor the King for his chief servants and scribes and those that administer to him in his household, for it is now seen that evil will not be poured out upon the land without cause.

And on the 3d day of the month September, toward the going down of the sun, the great ship sailed. And with her went the great captain who will tell his Queen all the things he has seen and heard, and no more fear will come over the land. And the blessings of the people went with him.

Such, O namesake of the son of David, has been the result of the past month's politics. The shadows on Ahaz's dial have gone backward, and we are still alive. England's Admiral has been here, listened to both sides, done his duty like a gentleman, and sailed. The blockades are all off. Kauai has drifted back again, and there being 1500 fewer devourers of eggs and all manner of green things, marketing is recovering its equilibrium and we may soon hope to get at least one-half for the money's worth.

There has been some little bantering among the natives it is said, on the part of some one who wanted to know whether they loved England France, or the United States best—the decision in favor of the first being aided by proclaiming the fact that there were no *pahaos* (query, taxes) in England, and

that a certain friend of ours, who by some *hocus pocus* has lately had all Molokai bequeathed him, was a *kanaka "aole maikai,"* &c., all of which was duly reported by the hearers, who, without doubt, decided that Kamehameha was good enough for them so long as *poi* grew without stint, and the *pahaos* operated as gently as at present.

By the way we have had a famous petition in circulation of late, though it is as invisible as the Nuanu snake, except to the initiated. It was said to contain a direful statement of the uncertainty of landed property, signed, of course, among those who have none. One signed it under the impression it contained something that would make *gnoc cheaper*, while another thought it not worth while to inquire the contents, so long as it came from a respectable source. I wonder the natives don't get up a petition to the guaranteeing powers asking for a similar right to claim lands, and begging most humbly that hereafter no lands shall be taken from them, unless they are *are very much coveted* by somebody else.

The suit in progress here seems to fit everybody so nicely that they are all for trying it on. Decision after decision is given by the knowing public while the grave arbiters are as muzz as possible. One witness has been treated to a five day's *probation* and pumped so dry that even an air pump could not have sucked him drier. It is pleasant enough to witness all this screwing, but to be a witness is quite another matter.

Nothing more to report except that external applications on the King's government having failed to better its system, it is to be physicked internally hereafter—a sort of drenching process to drive off the ill humours. I would tell you of a famous voyage of discovery fitted out of late from this port, which lasted three hours, and of all the strange sights seen and feats done, and how the adventurers escaped without other loss than their breakfasts, and came back to tell their tale of wonders by the flood, but true as it is you would set me down as a most deplorable

P. S.—If I can secure the journal I will petition the Polynesian to publish it.

THE POLYNESIAN.

HONOLULU, SATURDAY, SEPT. 12, 1846.

Independence of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

The idea has been current to some extent in our community of late that Great Britain would on some pretext or other again hoist her flag over this group. To those who place any faith in the official declarations of great nations, the refutation of an opinion so unfavorable to the character of an honorable nation is entirely unnecessary. She has repeatedly announced her intention of leaving these islands independent under their native sovereign, and the best proof that she intends them to be so is not only that she leaves them so, but manifests a friendly interest in their welfare. To show the opinion of the English press relative to the seizure of Lord George Paulet, we republish from the Colonial Magazine, (London) vol. 4, 1843, page 95, the following comments, which not only energetically denounce that act but do honorable justice to the American missionaries and traders by refuting the error which, strangely enough, the official paper fell into in regard to them.

"RESTORATION OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.—A semi-official paragraph has been published in the newspapers, deserving a special commentary. It is in the following:

"Despatches were sent off on Saturday, July 8th, by government to Captain Lord George Paulet, of the *Carysfort* frigate, in the South Pacific, acknowledging the free independence of King Kamehameha III. and the Sandwich Islands from this or any other country. It may be remembered that the King of the Sandwich Islands had made over the whole of his kingdom as a ransom to Lord George Paulet, who had taken possession of them in the name of her most gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, until he should receive further instructions from this government, which has decided the Sandwich Islands shall be an independent kingdom, granting, however, the protection of this country to King Kamehameha III., at his particular solicitation, and concluding a treaty of commerce whereby all British manufactures shall be admitted free into the different islands. These islands are of the utmost importance to the British shipping engaged in the sperm whale fishery, as they offer an excellent harborage and every convenience for curing their fish and extracting the oil, as the aborigines are extremely friendly, and render them willing every assistance. The country is very productive in corn, fruit, cattle, &c., and the natives are become quite civilized as well as christianized by the English residents and missionaries, who have built churches, chapels and schools in Owhyhee and other islands, at which the children are taught different trades."

"A more inconsiderate announcement of an important diplomatic act could not be made than this; in which a gross suppression of the real facts of the case tends to destroy the honorable and beneficial purpose of the main fact—the acknowledgment of the independence of the native authorities in the Sandwich Islands, in the Hawaiian Group or Owhyhee."

"What is termed a *ransom* in this paragraph, was as insolent a spoliation as was ever committed by a British commander. The official correspondence between the King of the Sandwich Islands and Lord George Paulet was published on the spot; and in republishing it, we know not which is the strongest feeling excited by it, that of respectful pity towards the gentle-spirited chief of the reclaimed barbarians of the south seas, or that of indignation against the gallant captain from the British Isles."

"There is one great error in the semi-official paragraph with which the present article was opened, and in which the civilization of the Sandwich Islands is attributed to the English residents and missionaries. Happily many of our countrymen in the South Seas are not wanting in well-earned titles to respect for their conduct towards the natives; but it is unjust to the Americans to suppress the admirable and successful efforts they have made to elevate this people from barbarism to their present very considerably ad-

vanced state. This is mainly owing to missionaries from the United States, and to the American traders long settled in these little islands. (Vide Col. Mag., vol. iii. 1843, p. 227.)

"Our distinguished navigator, Vancouver, nearly half a century ago, planned the conversion and civilization of this people upon excellent principles, but his views were disregarded at home, and we lost the best opportunity of cementing our intimate union with Owhyhee."

"In the mean time the American missionaries and traders have turned this fine field to account; and the incompetency of our consul fitly to discharge the duties of his station, has led to the recent disgraceful scene recorded above."

"The citizens of the United States of North America are more numerous than other whites in the Sandwich Islands, and their trade by far the most important there."

"From January, 1836, to December, 1841, 358 vessels belonging to the United States touched at Honolulu, the principal port. Four-fifths of these were whalers. Seventeen men-of-war from the U. States visited the place in the same period. The English vessels amounted in that time only to 91, of which 9 were men-of-war. Those of France were, 7 merchantmen and whalers, and 5 men-of-war. A few vessels belonging to Mexico, Chili, Tahiti, Sydney, China, Russia, and Prussia, also arrived. The imports from the United States are proportionately in their favor, as compared with those of Great Britain and of other countries. The Americans are therefore justified in their claims of a superior interest in this people over other nations; and, seeing the character of the race that is running by different civilized governments in seizing upon barbarous countries, it is honorable to the American Government that it has disclaimed all wish of "peculiar advantages or control" over the Owhyhee government, being content with its independence."

"It is gratifying to learn that this moderation has been followed by our own government, and the matter is important enough to be solemnly announced to the world. It is a victory of peace, far more deserving a column in the Washington, and London, and Petersburg Gazettes than any of the victories of war that have been trumpeted so loudly and so disgracefully of late years by us civilized nations over the Indians, the Affghans, the Arabs, and Circassians."

* Message to Congress by President Tyler, December 31, 1842.

JAPAN.—Visit of U. S. S. *Columbus*.—The U. S. Ship of the line *Columbus*, 100 guns, bearing the broad pennant of Commodore James Biddle, commanding U. S. East India Squadron, arrived in our waters on Wednesday morning and anchored in the outer roads. This stately vessel is the largest ever seen here, carrying, when all mounted, twenty-two guns more than the *Collingwood*. She is from China, via Japan, forty-three days from Jeddo, which place Commodore Biddle visited with the design of opening intercourse with the Emperor of Japan, by forwarding him a letter from the United States Government. The ship anchored some distance below the city for want of proper charts and the indisposition of the authorities to allow her to come nearer. The communication was forwarded to the Emperor, explaining the objects of the visit, to which he replied that he had heard of the United States, that they were a flourishing and great nation, and that he hoped they would continue to be prosperous, but declined any closer relations with them. The only foreign trade that would be allowed was with the Dutch and Chinese. He begged the ship would supply herself with what she wanted speedily, up anchor, be off, and never return. Landing was disallowed, but the ship was supplied with such as the country afforded, wood, water, poultry, eggs, and vegetables, for which neither pay nor presents were received in return. Nothing like trade was allowed with the numerous visitors that came on board. Even presents of coin, &c., that Jack gave some of the shore people, were afterwards returned. The only productions of the country obtained were a parcel of presents sent by the Emperor to the Commodore, which were declined by him. The Japanese officer having them in charge dared not return without delivering them, and as it was at the dusk of the evening, he threw his packet into one of the quarter boats and pulled off for the shore as fast as possible. There being no way to return it, the contents were divided among the officers, but they contained nothing of much value or skill in workmanship.

The Japanese had heard of the intended visit of the *Columbus*, but seemed some surprised at her dimensions. She was visited by many of the inhabitants, evidently with the Emperor's permission, but there were no females among them. Armed boats were kept about her, as in the case of the *Manhattan*, but they were not of force to resist a man-of-war. The men are represented as a fine, athletic race, inquisitive and intelligent. The shore off which the *Columbus* lay was rocky, but wooded, fertile, and apparently well cultivated. Hogs and bullocks were not to be had, though other supplies were plentiful. The *Columbus* lay there ten days and then sailed for this place. The *Vincennes* was subjected to similar treatment.

These are all the particulars we have as yet gathered of this visit to Japan. The result shows that it met with no better success than previous attempts, and that the Japanese are determined to persevere in their exclusive policy, content with the amount of their present intercourse with Christendom, through the agents of the Dutch factory at Nangasacki. In looking at the result of the contact of the European races with the native powers in India and China, one cannot but admire the polite wariness of the Japanese. Every visitor is treated hospitably, but kept on board his own ship. Compliments are met with compliments, wants gratuitously supplied, and not a

shadow of real complaint given. Christendom will find this peaceful, gentlemanly demeanor, a stronger barrier to their attempts at securing a diplomatic and trading foothold than were all the elephants and sabres of India, or the unwieldy war-junks and pompous proclamations of the Chinese. As yet not even the most frivolous pretext for force, or even pushing negotiations has been given. How long Japan will be enabled to maintain herself as a *terra incognita*, is a problem of great interest to us lovers of something new. In the present age it is almost the only country there would be any excitement in visiting, or that could furnish a taking book.

The *Columbus* and *Vincennes* have both suffered somewhat from the diseases of the eastern climate, although the weather at Japan and hence has been very fine. Since leaving the U. States about twenty men have died on board the former, and she has now a large number on the sick list—mostly down with the scurvy or diarrhoea and dysentery. The crew generally are feeble, having been for the last ninety days on salt provisions. They, undoubtedly, will speedily recruit under the regenerating influence of our Trades and markets.

SAMOA OR NAVIGATOR'S GROUP.—Rev. Thomas Heath, an English missionary at this group, has commenced a series of articles on the Ethnology of Polynesia, which he publishes in the Samoan Reporter. The Samoa group and race are among the most interesting objects in this ocean, and as it is one design of our paper to disseminate correct information in regard to kindred archipelagoes, we extract largely from Article I. in the March number of the Reporter. The English missionaries appear to be laboring with great success on this group. But if their language breathed more of charity towards what they term the "damnable heresies" of Roman Catholicism, it would recommend itself more to the favorable opinion of the public at large. Religious rancor and intolerance are alike hateful, whether shown in Protestant, Catholic, Turk or Hindoo. That we may not be considered as intolerant ourselves in calling attention to what appears to our mind a blot upon an otherwise truly laudable religious enterprise, we quote the following from the Report of Mr. G. Pratt. There is a design undoubtedly in the "voluntary humility" and poverty of the Roman Catholic missionary, and there is equally one in the more comfortable and less humiliating plan of the Protestants. Both in their systems, profess to be actuated by a zeal for their neophytes. Which is best remains for the fruit to tell. It is a singular anomaly, after reading the instruction to the seventy sent forth by the author of christianity, that Catholic Missionaries should be imputed blame-worthy by Protestant brethren because "they neither buy nor sell, but are content with such food" as those to whom they are sent "supply them with."

"On Sept. 13th, 1845, two Roman Catholic Priests went to Lealatele an inland village, where they were received by Tuala, one of the principal chiefs, and his followers. These people have turned backwards and forward as inclination or interest prompted, to every religious party in Samoa, but for some time past had been attendants on our services; not one, however, abstained from the most polluting of heathen practices. There may be as many as sixty, or perhaps even a few more, who for the professed purpose of exalting their chief's name, and making him famous in Samoa, have become papists, of whom it may be truly said their last state is worse than the first, for never before, till they bowed to an image of Mary, had they been idolaters. In the depth of their voluntary humility the priests place themselves on a level with the very meanest native, refusing the large house offered them, and choosing a mean house in a back situation, crouching before the chiefs when they pass them, &c. They neither buy nor sell, and content themselves with such food as the natives supply them with. Mass has been performed and some kind of a service held in an unknown tongue, at least so far as the natives were concerned. They refuse to preach till the place of worship which is in progress, and at which they themselves work, is finished."

"On Dec. 30th an open paper was handed to me by a Wallace's Islander, without address, and signed Violette. It professes to be the true principles of a Catholic, a most artful composition resembling poisoned food. In answer, I sent back in the same informal way, copies of our translations of the Scriptures and wrote on the envelope, "The Bible and the Bible alone is the religion of Protestants." May God preserve our people from these "damnable heresies," and give them an increased desire for His Holy Word, which is able to make them wise unto salvation." G. PRATT.

Matautu, 1846.

OUR EXCHANGES.—American Editors.—We have frequent requests to exchange with editors in the United States, particularly by way of Mexico. We should be most happy to comply with every request of this nature did it not subject us to a heavy postage—12 1-2 cents per paper on all their papers to us and all our papers to them—the postage both ways falling upon us. On that account we are obliged to limit our exchanges by that route to within the compass of our means, and we beg those of our brethren who do not receive our journal by that route as often and regularly as they desire, to bear in mind that it is not our will that interferes, but the great expense and uncertainty attending the transmission of newspapers via Mazatlan and Vera Cruz. As soon as the Panama mail is opened we shall most cheerfully accommodate them.

His Excellency the Governor paid a visit to H. B. M.'s ship *Juno* on Tuesday.