THE POLYNESIAN.

HONOLULU, SATURDAY, MAY 19.

☞ On appearing before the public as editor of the Polynesian, it will doubtless be expected that a declaration of principles and the general outline of the plan, upon which the paper will be conducted, should be made public. We are prepared to make but a brief exhibit on these subjects at the present moment; and must refer mainly to practice rather than profession, for the development of our course in the conduct of the paper.

We feel, however, a trembling distrust of our ability, and crave the lenient indulgence of the patrons of the paper, for all mistakes, deficiencies and so forth, that may be justly chargeable to us. In assuming the duties of editor, we stand entirely independent and unpledged; and mean to remain so. As the responsible person, we must, of course, be so; and our liberty in this respect no man may question.

We hope to conduct the paper upon those principles of sound morality fairness and honesty that shall commend it to the patronage of the wise and good, here and elsewhere; and to make it a weekly visitor in the numerous family circles throughout the islands that shall be welcomed with pleasure, and whose acquaintance shall not, insidiously, sow the seeds of discord, immorality and vice.

We shall spare neither time nor labor in gleaning from the whole world as much of its passing history as will keep our readers informed of its mighty movements, and its onward progress in the march of improvement.

On the subject of politics we are not skilled, but there is a simple old adage that our readers have doubtless heard often, that runs thus,—"Honesty is the best policy," which sums up our political principles pretty exactly. And we most sincerely hope that no occasion will ever arise, when the columns of the Polynesian shall be diverted, to any considerable extent, from the more legitimate objects of the newspaper press, to the discussion of mere political questions which but few care any thing about. We want a paternal, efficient, energetic government, that respects itself and respects others; and such a government, we feel assured, will have little occasion to defend itself. That differences of opinion may exist on almost every momentous question, we anticipate; but it by no means follows that discussion is opposition, or that differences of opinion cannot exist honestly, and be warmly canvassed without breach of friendship. Consequently, we profess at the outset, that we do respect the opinions of all men, and are willing to allow them their due weight, according to their merits.

The press—the *newspaper press*, in this age has become an element of such importance, in all civilized lands, that a man of small experience may well tremble when called upon to direct its mighty energies, and through it, to give tone and character, in some degree, to public opinion.—We have not felt at liberty to decline this responsibility although sensible of our want of experience. And while using our best endeavors to render the Polynesian worthy of patronage, we shall never take it amiss to have our omissions pointed out, our errors corrected, or our opinions canvassed. But in doing this, personalities should be avoided, and arguments, not individuals—measures, not men, should be the objects aimed at.

THE 6TH VOL. OF THE POLYNESIAN.—In commencing the 6th Vol. we would solicit the patronage of the foreign community; and shall send with the carrier when he distributes the first number, a form so arranged, that the blanks can be readily filled. The carrier will be authorized to receive cash on subscriptions, and those who thus pay, will please note the fact in its proper place, and receipts will be forwarded to all such with the second number.

We *solicit* patronage. The Polynesian is sustained at considerable *loss* to the office, and we earnestly call upon all who are residents here, or who feel an interest in the prosperity of these islands, and of this nation, to come forward promptly and sustain the paper.

We pledge our best endeavors to make it worthy of patronage, and call upon all who have hitherto taken the paper to continue to do so, and upon those who have never yet taken it, to commence now. Will not our agents in other places take immediate steps for increasing the circulation of the paper?

Merchants, mechanics, and all business men, send us your advertisements.

FEMALE SEMINARY AT WAILUKU.—This institution which has for so many years been sustained by the American Mission for the education of Hawaiian females, has recently been so far remodeled, as to admit of boarding and day scholars, to be taught in the English language. This will afford a fine opportunity for the large number of children of foreign extraction on the island of Maui, to acquire an education, and we are happy to learn that the importance of education is impressing more and more the minds of those foreigners who have children growing up around them, and that many of them are willing, nay anxious, to secure the advantage which the school at Wailuku, as now organized, will afford them, at a moderate cost.

We most earnestly hope the enterprize will not fail, through any lack of interest on the part of those who must sustain it, if it is sustained at all. Now is the time to *act*. If the present effort fails, many years may elapse before competent teachers can again be found to engage in such a work; and a generation may grow up in ignorance, that might have been trained for the duties and business of life, and for stations of usefulness and honor.

RATHER PLEASANT.—To go to a mechanic's shop to get a job done at 11 o'clock on Monday morning, and to find *one* man with his eyes black and blue, and his face swelled up like a puff-ball, and *another* with his tongue so thick as to be just able to articulate,—"can't do your work till Wednesday." No wonder such men charge *double price!* They have to pay roundly for the means of brutefaction, and their customers for their loss of time.

CHANGES.—Mr. Hall, who for the past fifteen years has been connected with the A. B. C. F. M., having dissolved his connection with that body, his place in the business department of the Mission has been supplied by Mr. A. S. Cooke.

SANDWICH ISLANDS MISSION.—This body has recently been assembled at Honolulu, for the transaction of business. It has been accustomed of late years to meet biennially; but on account of important suggestions received from the Secretaries in Boston, a special meeting was convened to consider them. Its deliberations have been continued through five weeks, and its final adjournment took place on Monday, the 7th inst. It stands adjourned—unless special business shall render an earlier meeting necessary—to the 2d Wednesday of May, 1851.

In disseminating the blessings of Christianity and civilization, the American Board have been actuated by but one desire,—that of bestowing, unrewarded, those blessings to the ignorant and degraded. And in the prosecution of this enterprize at these islands, it has no ulterior or other object before it, than to place the institutions and ordinances of a pure and holy religion upon a firm basis—a basis of self-sustenance and independence. It seeks no control over the conscience or conduct of these Hawaiian churches; but will rejoice, most sincerely, when the moment shall arrive in which it can withdraw from this as a missionary field, and leave these churches to free and unconstrained action, upon the voluntary principle. To attain this object, it has, with unwearied perseverance, labored for almost thirty years, and expended more than half a million of dollars. It has seen the Hawaiian nation emerge from the lowest depth of degradation in morals, to the condition of a Christian people—from a grinding despotism, to a constitutional monarchy, with many checks and balances—from the most abject serfdom, to the condition of freemen, with a voice in its own legislation—from utter ignorance of letters, to a nation that sustains, to a great extent, a system of national education, that puts to the blush many of the oldest nations in Christendom.—These attainments, however, are all imperfect.

This position of the Hawaiian nation, as viewed from the United States, has suggested the idea that the time had arrived when the American Board could withdraw with safety, and leave the cause to be sustained here by the energies and efforts of these churches, and the present generation of missionaries, without further reinforcement. Such suggestions have been made by the Secretaries of the Board, and this was the main business of the Mission, at its late meeting.

Were this nation, in regard to population, increasing rather than decreasing, or were it stationary with the number it possessed thirty years ago, the accomplishment of so laudable a desire would certainly be possible, at no very distant day. But with a constantly wasting population, and having been literally decimated within a single year by a sweeping pestilence, such a result is a problem which the future alone can solve. And while it is

"A consummation devoutly to be wished,"

its friends may yet be subjected to disappointment; *not* through any imperfection or inefficacy in the means employed, but through the operation of physical causes, and the violation of physical laws, which are universal in application, and inexorable in subjecting the violator to their penalty.

The undertaking is attended with many difficulties, in the present state of the nation. Still, we believe it is the design of some of the missionaries to relinquish their support from the American Board, at once, and look to their churches and their own efforts for a support; and others will draw from the Board only such sum as will make up the deficiency, after the church to which they minister has done what it can. "The laborer is worthy of his hire."

We deeply deplore the enfeebled state of the people, and would do all in our power to infuse new energy into the body corporate; and we know of no one thing more likely to have a beneficial tendency, than the new motive now presented to them, to engage in the manly employment of sustaining, each church its pastor, and the whole nation its own system of public schools.

Who will not bid them God speed?

MAIL VIA PANAMA.—This route, so long talked of, has now got into pretty regular operation between New York and California, and letters and papers have, by it, reached these islands to Feb. 12th. But there are yet many things about it not entirely satisfactory. One of these is, that our advices are three months old before they reach us from the United States, and nearly four from Europe! This is not much improvement upon times past; for we have had—though not regularly—intelligence across Mexico, via. Mazatlan, in 60 days, from the United States, and from Europe in 85 days, many years ago. We hope, however, that this evil will be remedied by enterprize and skill.

Another evil, of still greater magnitude, is, the high rate charged for letters. It is now ascertained, officially, that the postage from California to New York upon a single letter is 40 cents, and upon newspapers and pamphlets three cents, for sea-postage. It is said that pre-payment is not required.

This is very high postage; and so far as these islands are concerned, we have no hesitation in saying, that if the postage was reduced to 12 1-2 cents for a single letter, and one cent for a newspaper, the government would, in one or two years' time, receive twice the amount of postage, in the aggregate, that it will under the present high rates. Many of the residents here would write dozens of letters, and receive and remit many newspapers, who will now confine their communications to two or three of the former in a twelvemonth. This is peculiarly a reading community; and we doubt if the same number of foreigners, who live abroad in any other part of the globe, are in the habit of receiving so many periodicals from the lands of their birth, as the foreign residents on these shores. But can they,—will they pay such high rates for them as the present regulation requires? We think not. At least the number will be exceedingly limited. The greater part will still continue to come by ship around the Cape, where the cost is nothing.

As a matter of financial policy, therefore, we would earnestly recommend a revision of the subject, and the adoption of rates that shall secure to the *mail*, all the mailable matter.

Another evil now existing is, that we have no post-office arrangement here, by which letters can be deposited, and secure their safe and speedy transmission to their destination. Now, letters have to be enveloped and sent to some friend or correspondent in San Francisco, and by him put into the mail, and the postage paid.—And to refund the amount to your friend, you must send the money 3,000 miles, or he must draw on you for the amount; either of which modes are vexatious and restrain the interchange of correspondence.

Cannot some way be devised to remedy this latter evil? If so, let it be *done* at once.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.—H. B. M. Brig Pandora, Commander Wood, arrived on Sunday the 13th instant. She left the Island of Tavoga, in the Bay of Panama, on the 27th of March.

The dates by her are to the 14th Feb. from London, and to 12th from Paris.

The Government of Louis Napoleon, as first President of the French Republic, was proceeding favorably. He had given a very brilliant *soiree* on the 8th February in the *Elysee Nationale*, much in the style of the entertainments given by the Emperor. It was attended by all the *elite* of Paris and the whole diplomatic corps. It was remarked that the President's attentions were particularly gracious to Count Mole, M. Thiers, the Duke of Soto Mayor, and to no one more so than to the Marquis of Normanby, the British Ambassador, with whom he conversed familiarly in English.

The good understanding that had existed between the British Government and the administrations of La Martine and Cavaignac, in place of being weakened, was still more declared with that of Louis Napolean. Consequently, the English families were returning to Paris, and stocks of both countries were rising.

Louis Napoleon had made himself popular with the lower order in Paris, through sundry acts of charity and self-devotion. La Liberte mentions one, that of a poor widow with five children, whose husband had been one of the insurgents of June and been killed. She and her children being in a state of starvation, in dispair, she had taken occasion to throw a paper, stating the bare fact and giving her address, into the President's carriage. Shortly afterwards she was visited in her humble garret, by a gentleman who presented to her two notes of 100 francs each, and who, after leaving his card, withdrew. After he had gone, this poor widow found that her benefactor was no less a personage than Louis Napoleon himself, the President of the Republic and nephew of the Emperor.

In Bordeaux and its vicinity very strong manifestations had been made in favor of a return to Monarchical or Imperial institutions. A similar spirit was becoming apparent in other departments.

The chief difficulties of Louis Napoleon were financial, but it was reported that the Messrs. Barings of London would make a tender of a loan to a large amount.

A Congress was about to be held in Brussels on the subject of the affairs of Italy, to which the French and British Plenipotentiaries were proceeding in great haste.

It was believed the European powers would concur in restoring the Pope. The assassination of his Prime Minister, Count Rossi, had excited much horror.

LATER STILL.—We are indebted to the politeness of a gentleman of this town for the following items of news, which comes under date of 16th Feb. from Paris:—"It is just rumored that a federal Republic has been proclaimed in Italy, and that the political power of the Pope is entirely destroyed. Forty vessels were said to be loading at Havre for California, all to sail during the month of February."

FROM CALIFORNIA.—By the Auckland, arrived on Wednesday, the Alta California has been received to April 24th. We are indebted to a friend for the last two numbers, our own files,—much to our regret,—not having been received. It is quite evident, from the appearance of the paper, that a large sheet must soon be employed to give to the public the advertisements, even, that appear to be rapidly increasing. Two columns only of reading matter are contained in the last paper; and if our neighbor goes on at this rate, a semi-weekly of the largest demensions, or a moderate sized daily will soon be demanded by the thriving country, of which San Francisco is the commercial emporium. Success attend them.

We can extract from the last number but the following, which is a reflection of the editor, after glancing his eye over the world, and noticing the wonderful excitement occasioned by, and the rush of emigration towards, the gold regions of California:—

"This extraordinary excitement and emigration fills us with an undefinable dread. Not that we doubt the inexhaustibility of the mines, but that we fear the suffering and disappointment which so many of this vast crowd must undergo. Gold digging, like every thing else, has its fortunate and unfortunate votaries, and like every other pursuit, it requires industry, prudence, good health and energy. Thousands of those who come here will do well; but we cannot but believe that there will be hundreds who will have abandoned comfortable homes to seek for gold in a land where privations only will be their reward."

We notice the arrival on the 23d of April, of the schooner Chance, Wilcox, hence 26 days and of the schooner Lahaina, Hatch, hence 35 days in ballast.

FOUND DEAD.—Peter Stevens was found dead on the afternoon of the 16th instant, *in a large box* in the rear of the SHADES Tavern. He had been for months very intemperate, and to this fact is undoubtly owing his *untimely* death.—*Alta Cal.*

Who killed him? "Woe to him that giveth his neighbor drink, that puttest thy bottle to him and makest him drunken also."—*Bible.*

The SHADES tavern! Yes, if such is a specimen of its work, it is rightly named the *Shades* tavern,—the *Shades* of death!

EXCHANGES OF NEWSPAPERS.—We find on assuming the duty of editor, that we have no files of papers, from which to make selections and procure local news from different parts of the world. We therefore request that those editors to whom we send the Polynesian after this, will forward their papers, regularly in exchange for the Polynesian; or if they decline doing so, notify us of the fact.

As mails are becoming established in the Pacific, and the means of rapid communication are extending on every hand, we most earnestly hope those governments that may be negotiating on the subject of mails will secure the interchange of papers between offices in their respective countries. Let knowledge be as free as the wind, when it is for the public good.

WHAT NEXT, AND WHERE FROM?—The remark, "when will wonders cease?" has become obsolete. Nobody now expects them to cease; that is to say, strange and wonderful events will not cease to take place, the world over, but "wonders" may cease by becoming so common. We have been led to the above conclusion by receiving Nos. 1, 2 and 3 of the "Panama Star," kindly loaned us by Mr. Wyllie, and recently received by the Pandora. This is a little paper published in English, of the size of a foolscap sheet, and got up, as its introduction states, "in order to relieve the tedium of our protracted stay in this, to us strange land." Shades of Faust defend us! A few enterprising men on a journey across the Isthmus, are detained two or three weeks for lack of a vessel to convey them on, and the first idea that strikes them is to start a newspaper! and they do it, too; and a creditable little thing it is. It grapples with a manly spirit the obstacles it meets, and brings them up to that court of last appeal, an enlightened public opinion. Success to it. And although the editor occupied the chair but three weeks,—"having secured a passage to the El Dorado,"—we hope a worthy successor will step in, and keep it alive. We make some extracts from it, and close this notice by saying, "please exchange."

TRAVEL ACROSS THE ISHTMUS.—The facility and cost of travel and transportation of baggage across the Isthmus has became a subject of so much importance to all about to visit California, that the following statements of the rates which should be paid, and for which the passage has been and can be effected, cannot but interest our readers. It was furnished by one of 40 passengers, who arrived at Chagres on the 30th Jan. from New Orleans in the barque Florida.

Forty passengers, with 250 pounds of baggage paid $6,25 for each passage to Gorgona, 35 miles. Thence to Panama, 21 miles, $5,00 for each saddle horse, and 2 1-2 cents a lb. for baggage, making total cost transportation of one passenger with 250 pounds of baggage across the Isthmus, $17,50.

Much higher rates have been paid, much vexation and annoyance experienced by travellers, but all may be attributed to their having fallen into the hands of speculators and men who are incompetent for the business.

It is to be hoped that very shortly a regular and prompt means of transit will be afforded by which all trouble will be avoided, and this route made what it actually is the best and most practible.

No other money than 5 franc or fractions of 5 franc pieces should be brought by travellers here. American gold is only worth 40 francs the eagle, and silver at the same rate.—*Panama Star, 3rd March.*

CROSSING THE ISTHMUS.—Every day increases the travel across the Isthmus, and every day increases the expense, danger, &c. If some better means are not provided soon for the transportation of passengers and baggage across, this route to California will fall into disrepute.

Rates of transportaion which in January was $17 50 to $25 for one person with 250 pounds of baggage, and three to four days, costs now from $30 to $60, and eight to ten days crossing, and unless you accompany your baggage, ten to one it is lost or stolen on the road.

Within the last few days, thousands of dollars in money and baggage have been stolen on the way from Gorgona to this place. It behoves people who are interested to establish a safe and cheap transportation across as soon as possible.—*Ib., March* 10.

☞ We give below a translation of an interesting communication which has been handed us by the "Intendente" of this State, and to which we referred to in our last number. Don Arossemena, the author, has long and earnestly exerted himself to secure to the Isthmus the commerce which nature herself has designed. We leave him to speak for himself, being certain that his views meet the approbation of all our readers who are in favor of the extension of commerce and the consequent civilization of the world.—The following is a brief synopsis of his despatch to the honorable secretary of State:

Although I believe that the government of this State has regularly transmitted to the department every thing interesting in reference to the commercial relations now by the recent treaty, so important and interesting between this government and the United States, I cannot permit this opportunity to pass without the following communication:—The number of emigrants for California have been constantly increasing, and there are now waiting passage at least 1500 souls. It is true, that many are occupying themselves with different enterprises, such as establishing hotels, eating houses, and other minor business, yet the tendency of the whole is to the "promised land," the gold regions of California. This emigration cannot but be favorable to the interest of the Isthmus. The survey of the route for the railway to be constructed by Messrs. Aspinwall, Stephens and Chauncy is progressing rapidly, and the most eligible route will soon be determined. Whether the commerce of the world will pass through this city to Porto Bello, Lemon Bay, or Chagres, will soon be known. The Atlantic steamers are already placed on the line, and will monthly perform their trips between New York and Chagres: of the Pacific line, the California and Oregon have arrived in due season. The Panama only is wanted, and except an accident had happened to her machinery, she would have completed the number of steamships required for this magnificent display of American enterprise. Our climate is healthy, and although the cholera has visited us, the number of deaths have been few, and it has been attended with the disastrous effects which might have been expected, and there are fewer cases, of illness among the emigrants here than would have resulted from equal exposure at home.—*Ib.*

☞ We are sorry to say that there are several persons engaged in the contemptible business of speculation on their fellow emigrants, in the purchase and sale of tickets in the various vessels now up for California. It is well known to these Shylocks that great anxiety exists among those who had not secured a passage in the Steamers before leaving the States, and the ready sale of tickets in almost any vessel, they therefore, through misrepresentation and fraud secure a large number of tickets in the name of a company, or as the captain of a company the instant the books are opened for passengers. The tickets of the Steamer Oregon have been very profitable to these leeches. Steerage tickets have been sold at an advance of $400. The tickets of the Equator find a ready sale at an advance of $50 and in some cases $100 has been paid.—*Ib.*

HEALTH OF PANAMA.—Panama at present is very healthy, being but three or four slight cases of fever among the Americans. The Themomter varies from 85 to 94 degrees.—*Ib.*

☞ Despatches were received at the Foreign Office, on the 16th inst., from Rear Admiral de Tromelin, Commander-in-Chief of the Naval Forces of France, and from the King's *Charge d' Affaires* in Peru.

A very courteous communication was received, on the same day, from Capt. Courtenay of H. B. M.'s Ship Constance, in the harbor of Mazatlan.

THE ROYAL SCHOOL.—The pupils of the Royal School, eleven in number, are now united with the Honolulu Seminary, and are under the instruction of Mr. Fuller. The *family* is still under the charge of Mr. and Mrs. Cooke, who have devoted themselves with great fidelity to the pupils of that school for the past nine years.

THE VOLCANO.—For the past year or more, the volcano on Hawaii has been so quiescent, that visitors have represented it as "going out." Reasoning from analogy, the period may arrive, when Kilauea, like the immense craters on all the leeward islands, may cease to be the escape valve for the pent gasses of the interior laboratory. But that time has not yet arrived. For a few months past evidence of increasing activity has become more and more apparent; and the following extract from a familiar letter, written by a lady who was passing, with her children, that celebrated spot, will show that the volcano still possesses the power of awing and elevating the mind susceptible of emotion; and that changes are in progress which may result in an eruption of a magnificent but desolating character.

"We arrived at the volcano at 3 o'clock, P. M., April 10th, enveloped in fog, while the thunder was rolling over our heads. There was soon a smart shower, then it cleared up and was remarkably pleasant during our stay. But what shall I say of that *awful* night—the most fearful one I ever spent? I cannot describe what I saw, heard and felt. When we had been there about an hour, Henry came in and asked me to go out on the bank and *hear* the volcano. He said it made a noise like an animal with its head cut off. After listening a moment, I heard the heavy breathing, but soon there was an explosion, the noise of which equaled the thunder which we had just been hearing. We saw distinctly that the gas was escaping from the largest cone. Report followed report in quick succession, attended with a rumbling noise as though the lava was escaping, and yet we could see but a small flow. The children were greatly frightened; but the natives rushed out of the house, crying 'man of war! man of war!' These explosions, louder at some times than at others, occurred at intervals of about an hour during our stay. In the stillness of the night, the echo around the walls of the crater was grand and awful beyond description.

"At early dawn I started, with H. and F, to walk till the animals overtook us. When opposite the immense mound which now covers the lake, we could feel the heat from it very sensibly. The top of it is nearly on a level with the lowest side of the crater, having been thrown up, apparently, by the gasses beneath, and in being thrown up large seams opened on every side, through which we could see Pele's fires, and out of which the lava flowed whenever gas escaped from the cones."

The explosions, occasioned by the escape of gas at somewhat regular intervals, spoken of in the above extract, remind us of a similar phenomenon, during a visit to the volcano in 1840; although at that time but a single moment intervened between the reports. We find the following minute of the fact recorded in our journal at the time:—"While gazing intently into the crater below, our ears were suddenly saluted by five or six regular discharges, from a small crater in the bottom, from which had previously issued only a light column of smoke. They were so regular and abrupt, as to remind us of a consular salute from a man-of-war, and so loud, as to cause the whole cavern to tremble."

"List! to the booming sound,
From yonder crater, unobserved till now.
Again, and yet again, it bellows forth
It's bursting thunder, with distracting noise;
The echoing cliffs prolong the wild dissonry,
And distant mountains bear the echo on.
Once more 'tis still. Nought but the dashing roar,
Of the huge waves in constant action toss'd,
Salutes the ear. Again! the caverned sides,
Tremble beneath the pent-up energies
Of the fierce power! while, with reverberant sound,
Mountains and vales re-echo all around."

LATEST FROM THE VOLCANO.—By letters recently received from Hilo, we learn that there was an eruption on the 9th instant, near the base of Mauna Loa. Our correspondent writes:—"It is burning most terrifically at this moment.—The sight is awfully grand. We first noticed it here at 7 o'clock, P. M. It is to all appearance at or near the base of the mountain, not near the top, as in the eruption of 1843; and on this side it does not as yet appear to flow, as in that year. We hope we are not fated to be overflown, but the sequel is not with us. It is the opinion this morning, that the eruption is on the leeward side of the mountain."

We wait with some anxiety for communications from the leeward side of the island; for, from the long somnolent state of the great crater, we should not be surprised to hear of a devastating eruption in that direction.

EDITORIAL SUMMARY.—Among the passengers on board the ship Pacific from New York for San Francisco, we see the name of H. Bingham, also, that of Stetson, as captain of barque Hebe, from Baltimore, for the same place.

The ship Montreal sailed from Boston Jan. 26th, for San Francisco, via these islands. H. A. Peirce, one of the owners, and an old resident here is a passenger. She may be expected by the first of June.

We noticed a day or two since in one of our exchanges, that *somebody*, (we can't find the article just now,) had *presented the editor* with an enormous great potatoe! our object in alluding to the subject is, to say that the editor was a lucky fellow, and to commend the man that did it. Great potatoes *may* exist at these islands; we *know* there are plenty of "small" ones.

In the report of the proceedings in the American Senate, Feb. 2d, Mr. Benton gave notice of his intention to introduce, on Monday next, a bill providing for the location and construction of a national central railroad, from San Francisco, on the Pacific, to St. Louis, on the Mississippi, with a branch to the Columbia River, in Oregon.

☞ We have been permitted by a friend to copy the following from a private letter received on the 16th by the Auckland, dated San Francisco, April 13, 1849.

"You are doubtless aware of the immense rush of people to this country from all parts of the world. In the U. S. men appear to be perfectly insane. Of the tens of thousands who will come out, nine-tenths will be wofully disappointed. The reports at home have been sadly exaggerated, and the emigrating multitudes are building on a false basis. But the tide of emigration has one redeeming feature; the people who are coming, so far as I can learn, are among our most substantial eastern citizens. Many of them capitalists, and men of true piety and intelligence. * * * *

The steamers have brought us within six weeks of New York, and we begin to feel the pulses of eastern society beat through the arteries of the territory. Business is brisk; the mines are yielding excellently; speculation rife; and new cities and towns are in the process of manufacture.

The steamer Oregon left this morning for Panama, with a large mail and some passengers.—The California will leave next week. Mrs. Grimes and several other ladies go in her as passengers."

THE MISSION SEMINARY AT LAHAINALUNA.—This institution has recently become by grant, the property of the government, and is to be sustained hereafter by government funds, on essentially the same plan as heretofore. It has cost the Mission, since it was founded in the year 1831, about $77,000, and has sent forth 241 graduates and 150 undergraduates to exert their influence upon the nation. This influence has been powerful and much of it decidedly beneficial. About forty of the former pupils of the Seminary have been employed in various offices of trust and responsibility under the government, and eighty more have been engaged in school teaching; some have become merchants clerks, or private secretaries to the chiefs, while a portion of them, as might be expected, have turned out to be either worthless or injurious members of society.

We look upon this as an important acquisition on the part of the nation, and the government will do itself great credit by carrying on this institution efficiently and as extensively as its means will admit of. We are happy to learn that the present able and experienced teachers are to continue at their posts. A portion of land on the island of Maui, has been appropriated by the government, for the use of this Seminary.—This is well, it could not be devoted to a more important object.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

POST OFFICE.—This desideratum is at last established. Mr. Voorhies, the agent appointed by the President, has made arrangements to deliver letters at the store of Rose, Benton & Co. Our citizens will now have a place to call for letters, and the privilege of paying for them.—[Alta California.

LARGE PIECE OF GOLD.—We were shown a few days since, the largest piece of gold we have yet seen. It was procured on the Stanislaus river, and brought here by Mr. Weber of Stockton. It is about six inches in length, two and a half in width, and from one quarter to five eighths of an inch in thickness. To all appearances it is pure gold, and weighs seventy-eight ounces, or six and a half pounds Troy. Its value at $16 the ounce is $1,248. A glorious day's work.—With this piece, we were shown two smaller pieces weighing about one pound each.—[Ib.

IRON WAREHOUSES.—Several iron warehouses and dwellings are soon expected. Among the number, is one 120 feet long, for the enterprising firm of Starkey, Janion & Co. It will arrive per Antelope from Liverpool.—[Ib.

NEW SHIPS.—There is now on the stocks at New York a magnificent steamer, designed for Collins' Liverpool Line, said to exceed all other vessels in size, strength and finish, being 2000 tons burthen, 300 feet deck, and of width in proportion. The cost of her machinery will be $200,000. For copper bolts alone, in fastening the timbers, the sum of $8,000 has been expended. She will be launched next month, and be ready for sea by the spring.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.—It is rumored that Commodore Parker and Commanders Dupont, Buchanan and Barron, of the Navy, have received furloughs from the department, for the purpose of proceeding to Europe to organize the new navy recently created by the general German government. Commodore Parker is to have the rank of Admiral, and his colleagues, it is stated, that of Vice-Admiral, with the corresponding pay and emoluments.

☞ The taxes in New York city are 84 cents on the $100.

☞ A London writer says:

"There is a new patented material for boots and shoes called the Panama cotton, or leather cloth, invented by a person named Hall, which has met with a great share of patronage from the royal family down. The material is cotton, but has the gloss and general appearance of leather, and receives a polish from ordinary blacking and in the same way. It is used only for the upper part of the boot or shoe, the sole being leather. It is said to be as durable as leather, never cracks or splits, and possesses the advantage of not drawing the foot as great double-extent for persons with tender feet. They will yield to the action of the foot, without the slightest pressure. I speak from experience, having used them in my family."

☞ Charles Eames, of New York, has been appointed by the President Commissioner to the Sandwich Islands, in place of Anthony Ten Eyck, Esq., resigned.

☞ The English papers speculating upon the new influx of gold into the veins of commerce, assert that creditors will suffer and debtors gain; annuitants and persons of fixed incomes will be ruined!

(Reported for the Polynesian.)

Circuit Court for the Second Judicial District, Chief Justice LEE, *and Judges* RICHARDSON *and* NAHAOLELUA *on the Bench.*

Lukia, a native, *vs.* Aying, a Chinaman.

This was a petition for divorce, on the ground of adultery. The defendant made default in answer and appearance; and on motion of counsel the complainant's petition was referred to a Master in Chancery to inquire into the truth of the facts set forth in the same, and report the result of his investigation to the Court.

A. W. Parsons, Esq., Counsel for complainant.

The King vs. Benjamin B. Parish, et al.

This was an appeal from the Police Court of Lahaina. The facts of the case appeared to be as follows: On the 27th day of April last, Joseph S. Adams, master of the American whale ship America, appeared before A. W. Parsons, Esq., Justice of the Police Court of Lahaina, and made deposition on oath, that Benjamin B. Parish, H. G. O. Robinson, Thomas H. Lowrey, John M. D. Brown, and John Magreery, sailors belonging to the America, had deserted from his vessel, while lying in the roadstead of Lahaina, on the night of the 24th of April last; that he had lost at the same time, a whaleboat of the value of sixty-five dollars, five oars and a boat keg of the value of twelve dollars; and that he had good reason to believe that the above named Parish and others had stolen and carried away the said boat, oars and boat keg.

On this deposition, the Justice issued a warrant for the arrest of the parties, which was executed the same day, and the accused were brought into Court in the custody of the Sheriff. The prisoners at once objected to any proceedings of the court in the matter, on the ground that the case did not come within the jurisdiction of the Police Court. The Court overruled this objection, and the prisoners were then called on to plead guilty or not guilty to the charge preferred against them. They then severally pleaded guilty; and the Court sentenced them to pay a fine of sixty-one dollars and sixty cents each, and to be imprisoned for the term of four months.

To this judgment of the Police Justice the prisoners' counsel took exception on the ground that the offence of which the parties had been tried and convicted, was committed on board of an American ship upon the High Seas, not within the jurisdiction of the Hawaiian Islands, and therefore not cognizable by the tribunals of the Kingdom. Upon this exception to the jurisdiction of the Police Justice, the case came before the Superior Court in Circuit, and was submitted to the decision of the Court without argument.

Chief Justice Lee, who delivered the opinion of the Court, stated that the main questions involved in this case were two. 1st. Whether the Police Justice of Lahaina had any jurisdiction over offences committed upon the High Seas.—2nd. Whether the offence of which the prisoners had been tried and convicted, was committed upon the High Seas, or within the territory of this Kingdom and the district of Lahaina.

Upon the first question, the Chief Justice remarkes, that ch. 2, art. 2, sec. 1, of the Act to organize the Judiciary Department, gave the Police Justices of Lahaina and Honolulu, "original jurisdiction of torts and wrongs arising upon the High Seas, and the waters within His Majesty's maratime jurisdiction." To say, however, that under this clause of the statute, the Police Justice of Lahaina, or any other Justice or Judge of this Kingdom had jurisdiction of offences committed on the High Seas, on board of foreign vessels, would involve an absolute absurdity;—such could never have been the intention of the Legislature; for the jurisdiction of a nation could never extend beyond its territory, except in the case of piracy and the like offences, which being crimes not against any particular nation, but against all mankind, might be punished in the competent tribunal of any country where the offender was found, or into which he might be carried, although committed on board of a foreign vessel on the high seas. That the true construction to be given to this statute, was, that the Police Justices of Lahaina and Honolu-