

THE POLYNESIAN. SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 1851.

area of 288,232 square miles, embraces four principal divisions inhabited by different races, with peculiar laws, customs, and institutions. Only about one-fourth of its population is comprehended within the German Confederation, though she now seeks to include within it a great portion of her Slavic territories.

The population, as laid down in the chart of the "Direction Imperiale de la Statistique Administrative," is made up of the following elements:

Table with 2 columns: Nationality and Population. Includes Germans (7,980,920), Slavonians (15,170,002), Italians (5,063,575), Romano-Valques and Moldavians (2,686,492), Magyars (5,418,773), Jews (746,891), and Miscellaneous races (525,873). Total: 37,593,125.

The national debt, after deducting the effects of the sinking fund, amounts, at the beginning of the present year, to 997,706,654 florins, absorbs more than one-third of the revenues. The receipts for the year 1848 were 144,003,758fl., and the expenditure 283,864,674fl., showing a deficit of about 140,000,000fl.; this, however, is exceptional; the deficit, for the first quarter of 1850, reaching only 18,000,000fl.

The regular army, prior to the revolution of 1848, consisted of about 230,000 men, which might be increased, in time of war, to 750,000. But so large a portion of the forces of Austria are required to keep in subjection her discontented Italian and Hungarian territories, that she could not, probably, detach, if unsupported by Russia, 200,000 men, for effective service.

The navy consists of 31 armed vessels, carrying 544 guns; 15 steamers, of which two are 300 horse power, the others smaller; besides gun-boats.

The Russian Empire occupies considerably more than one-half of Europe, its area being 2,099,903 square miles.

The population, according to the most recent estimates, is about 62,000,000. Of these about 21,000,000 are serfs to the nobles, and belong to the soil; 17,500,000 formerly serfs of the crown, who may be considered, personally, as freemen, having been emancipated; 4,500,000 burghers; and the remainder are nobles, either hereditary or personal; the latter dignity being conferred upon all civil and military officers, and upon the chief clergy and burghers.

No satisfactory statistics exhibiting the present state of the financial and military affairs of the empire are accessible. The Almanach de Gotha, of the present year, emits the statistical details previously given; and is unable to furnish more recent details. It is understood, that the revenues and expenditures, for some years past, have been about \$51,000,000. The public debt is stated at 350,219,492 silver roubles.

The army is given, in round numbers, at 1,000,000. It is supposed that, in case of war Russia is able to send into the field not less than 800,000 men. This immense disposable force, absolutely under the control of the Emperor, renders the power of Russia imminently dangerous to the peace of Europe. By a course of masterly policy, directed to one end, the influence of the empire has been gradually extended toward the centre of Europe; and the only conceivable means of checking it seems to be a confederation of all the German States, so close, that they shall, in effect, constitute but one nation. It is this consideration which, underlying the whole current of European politics, renders the present juncture of affairs so critical.—The great question of the supremacy of race—the question whether the Teutonic or the Slavic race shall predominate, and direct in the affairs of Europe—rests, apparently, upon the events which are now about to transpire.

The remaining nations of Europe are too feeble in numbers, or too enervated in character, to exercise any great influence upon the current of events. The hope, once entertained, that a union of the Italian race was to take place, has been frustrated; and the Peninsula, containing a population of nearly 25,000,000 of inhabitants, is broken up into petty governments, each more despicable than the other.

TURKEY IN EUROPE has about 15,500,000 inhabitants, but the Ottoman race is hardly more than a military colony, and numbers but little above 1,000,000; while the Mohammedan religion has less than 4,000,000 of adherents, the Greek Church alone numbering 11,500,000. Three-fourths of the population, therefore, both in race and faith, have less affinity for Turkey than Russia, into whose hands they are ready to fall.

Spain, to check whose power was the great object of all Europe, two centuries and a half since, is now utterly bankrupt in character and means.

Every year shows a large deficit in her revenues, although she pays the interest upon but a fraction of her public debt, which amounts to 15,500,000,000 of reals, the interest of which, at six per cent, would, if paid, absorb the whole of the revenue.

The navy, which, as late as 1847, numbered 68 ships of the line and 40 frigates, and sank in 1849, to 2 ships of the line, 5 frigates, 4 brigs and corvettes, and 15 small steamers, of from 40 to 350 horse-power; and of these, hardly any it is said, were fit for service.

Portugal has experienced a like decline, every year showing a deficit; the interest of her debt of about 600,000,000, absorbing fully one-third of her revenues.

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At the closing session of the Royal Hawaiian Agricultural Society, on the 13th of August, 1850, that society adjourned on the 2d Monday in August, 1851. On Monday next, then, the first annual meeting will take place in accordance to the adjournment, and to notice given by the executive Committee, through the Polynesian for several weeks past.

In calling attention to this meeting, and in urgently requesting a large attendance of its members, and others interested in its objects, we feel that we are advocating the best interests—the true policy of the islands. The arguments employed for the necessity of its formation are no less applicable to its vigorous and steady support. And we trust that no member of the Society will fail—except from the most imperative necessity,—to countenance by his presence, his co-operation and his cheerful support, an organization which promises to advance the great interests represented by the Society.

Let its members come together with hopeful confidence, and not with feelings of despondency at the little progress made during the past year. Advance in many respects will be reported; which should give confidence for the future, and although the islands may not yet have become the resort of numerous ships for cargoes of our staples, as they visit Manila and China for the same objects, yet, if a steady perseverance is adhered to in producing, and the quantity, quality and price are such as to make it feasible, we may rest assured that the day is not distant when we shall realize these fond anticipations. When instead of voyaging off to the west many thousands of miles for cargoes of sugar and coffee, to be conveyed back across the Pacific to a market, or to Europe and America as remittance, we shall be able to supply, in the near vicinity of a market, a better article at as low cost, or to remit our products in payment for the goods we consume, and ultimately turn the balance of trade in our favor.

If the business of the islands is ever to increase to any considerable extent; if we are ever to have an export wherewith to pay for our large imports, the products of our soil must furnish the basis for it. We have no mines of gold and silver, or of even the less precious metals; we have no manufactures to give increased value to raw material; in fact we have no source of wealth but from the cultivation of the soil. And what need we of more? This is ample and sufficient, if employed to anything like its legitimate capacity, and will produce an amount of wealth far beyond our present expectations.

The objects of the Society are to give tone, concentration and efficiency to this vital branch of national industry. We are but groping in the dark; we want light, encouragement and the sympathy of all concerned in the laudable work. We are but sailing along the shore of the great ocean, upon which we lack the strength or the courage to launch boldly forth. Our productions are too limited to commence a vigorous enterprise. Were there now on hand one or two thousand tons of sugar, our planters would almost stand aghast with apprehension lest it would not find a market. But we should like to inquire, how is it that we are obliged to pay for our imports in hard dollars, and to drain the country of its circulating medium, to furnish ships with the means of proceeding to Manila for sugar and coffee to convey to Europe and the United States? Why cannot the ships that bring our merchandise, return direct with our productions in payment? Simply because we have none to send, or we hold them so high that they will not bear transportation.

Our planters and our merchants must look to this matter, and come up boldly to face the necessity, or we shall continue to grope along the shore, and never lose sight of land. We want larger quantities of something that will bear transportation to the most distant country, and it must be furnished, too, at a rate that will render it a better remittance than specie.

There is not a shadow of doubt that the influence of the Agricultural Society will tend to give strength to every interest concerned, if its members will but feel its importance, and unite their energies for the promotion of the great object before us. And it is not the man actually engaged in tilling the soil, who is alone interested in the agricultural interests of the islands. The merchant, the mechanic, the laborer, the ship-owner, the man of capital are all concerned in its advancement; all are, in a greater or less degree, dependent upon it for success in their several occupations; each and all would be benefited by an export trade, which would leave our circulating medium undrained. We call upon them all, then, to throw in their influence with this Society for the promotion of interests in which they will all participate. In its feeble infancy, it needs the fostering and sustaining arm of its friends to lean upon; in its manhood it will return a rich reward to those who have befriended it.

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Several important measures relating to labor, a public nursery, the appropriation made by the last Legislature for premiums, and other matters, will be laid before the Society for consideration. The exhibition will take place on Tuesday further notice of which, will be given at the meeting on Monday.

An address will be delivered by the Hon. Luther Severance, on Monday evening, at the chapel, commencing at half past seven o'clock. The meeting of the Society will be held at Mauna Kilika, commencing at 10 o'clock, A. M. We again solicit a general attendance of all members and others who take an interest in its objects; and who, that resides upon the islands, or is in any way connected with their commercial or general prosperity, does not feel an interest in them?

It is much to be regretted that persons should, through a mistaken kindness, endanger property, create the greatest confusion and very probably cause the loss of life. On the night of the fire, when the seamen from H. M. S. Swift were working hard at their engine placed in the yard of the French Hotel which supplied most effectually the town engine with water, some persons from that Hotel with inconsiderate liberality, gave these men a quantity of spirits and even forced them to drink it, by almost pouring it down their throats. Self denial is not one of Jack's attributes, when such temptations are held out to him. He will work hard and is thoughtful of his life when any calamity calls for his services, but when his reason is gone and his passions are roused he is not under control; but the fire increased and spread to other houses, there is no knowing what fatal consequences might have ensued.—They are subject to the severest punishment on their return on board, for so flagrant a breach of discipline as drunkenness when on duty.

In a paragraph of the Polynesian of August 2d, stating that fire engines are of little use, I would beg to suggest that two or three force pump engines with plenty of hose, would be of the greatest service, as by placing them at the well of any house they will convey water to almost any distance, thereby supplying most effectually and constantly those larger engines stationed at the fire. Had there been a good supply of water at the first, Mr. Bartow's store would probably have been saved, as the Town engines were promptly on the spot; but the only water they could obtain till engines from the ships arrived was from a few occasional buckets brought from a distance, irregularly served with no confusion. It would be very beneficial if all large storehouses and even dwelling-houses were obliged to keep ready for use, six good light buckets, made of leather or gutta percha, and that a number of the inhabitants or fire brigade were so stationed by numbers with a leading person to each twenty, or thirty that they could assemble at a short notice and form themselves into a double row from the engine at the fire to the nearest water, odd numbers on one side, even numbers the other would be passed along from one to the other with the greatest celerity and without confusion, one row the even numbers, passing the full buckets, the opposite row or odd numbers passing the empty ones back.

The leading men might be designated by the letters of the Alphabet, the men under them being numbered to thirty forty or fifty as the case may be, viz. A. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, &c. B. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, &c. C. do. do.

It is also an excellent plan to have boards placed in different parts of the town where water is plentiful, having painted on them, "Water" in large letters. People then from constantly seeing these in the day time know immediately where to go; buckets might also be kept at these places; also the force pump engines.

W. CORNWALLIS ALDHAM. H. B. M. S. Swift. Honolulu, August 2d, 1851.

The preceding was handed to the undersigned with liberty to publish it, for the good of the public. R. C. WYLLIE. Foreign office, August 2d, 1851.

The suggestions contained in the preceding communication from Capt. Aldham are highly worthy of the serious consideration of owners of property in Honolulu, and the sooner they are carried into effect the better it will be for them. If we are to derive any benefit from the misfortunes of our neighbors in San Francisco, it must be from guarding ourselves against the monster evil which has laid their thriving city so frequently in ashes, blighting the hopes, and scattering to the winds the fair prospects of thousands of her citizens, and fixing upon the city itself the unfortunate, but truthful appellation of the "city of conflagrations."

Hitherto, Honolulu has been remarkably exempt from fires, considering the combustible nature of a large portion of the city; but we certainly cannot depend upon this immunity for ever. With the greatest degree of vigilance that can be exercised, and which every member of the community ought to exercise in regard to fire, as an unseen spark may light a conflagration such as we have never witnessed before.—Our security rests not in our past exemption, but in a state of preparation and readiness to meet the first outbreak of the destructive element.

The government has provided an Engine and a house for its accommodation. A company of enterprising young men has been formed to take charge of, and to use it. Laws have been enacted for its organization and efficiency. But without a supply of water, all these preparations are but preliminaries to efficient action. We want the additional machinery, suggested by the above communication, and we want a supply of water, without which all the machinery will be useless.

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By the British ship North Star, Capt. N. H. Palmer, which arrived on the 14th, we have dates to the 18th ultimo, from San Francisco, received through the politeness of Mr. S. N. Castle, a passenger thence. We are also indebted to Gregory's Express for a file to the 18th, received by the same ship.

We learn, from a passenger on board, that the passage of the North Star was protracted by calm and light winds, to 17 days. She is a fine vessel, of about 400 tons burthen, and a good sailer, having made the passage from London to San Francisco in 135 days, exclusive of her stop at Valparaiso, and from the latter port to San Francisco, in 45 days, being three days less than the time occupied by the clipper Sea Serpent, for the same run; and, withal, has an intelligent and gentlemanly commander, assisted by able and efficient officers.

On the morning of the 20th, about 20 miles out, saw a steamer standing in, supposed to be the U. S. Steamer California; due on that day.

On the 21st, just at night, about 175 miles out, met a brig standing in, supposed to be the Baltimore, hence, which had not arrived when the N. Star left.

About midnight, on the 3rd August, 400 miles N. N. W. of Honolulu, the startling cry of fire was raised; starting even upon land, but doubly so at sea. It originated in the steward's pantry, from a box of lucifer matches, which were supposed to have been ignited from falling down and being crushed between other things, by the motion of the ship, or, what is more probable, having been gnawed by rats, of which the vessel is not free. This shows the extreme care that should be taken, both on shipboard and ashore, of these indispensable little conveniences. In this case, the fire was extinguished without much trouble, but if it had been undiscovered for half an hour longer, the ship might have been in great jeopardy.

The files received contain but little news of interest to our readers. Business is represented as exceedingly dull, prices low, and goods abundant.

About a hundred bags, filled with Mail matter, were despatched by the steamer North-erner, on the 15th, for Panama. The reduction of postage is beginning to produce its legitimate fruits.

The Custom House books show an export of bullion, for the quarter ending June 30th, of \$9,439,000. This is, of course, not near all the gold that has found its way out of the country. \$1,500,000 were shipped by the Northerner, of which sum, \$333,666 were shipped by Adams & Co.'s Express, and \$60,000 by Gregory's.

The Vigilance Committee continue to make arrests of notorious characters, implicated in crimes of the deepest dye, by Stuart the notorious criminal who was recently hanged.

The Adirondack, Oriental, Eliza Taylor, Penelope, Honolulu, and Robert Bruce, six vessels, all arrived at San Francisco on the 15th July, from these islands, in from 17 to 24 days.

From our Oregon papers we make the following extracts:—The Indians still continue troublesome on the borders of Oregon. Business is not very brisk in any of the river towns.

The Congressional election is all over, and General Lane has a majority, for Governor, of 1485, over his opponent Wilson.

Some skirmishing has taken place with the Rogue River Indians, in which Captain Stewart was killed. The following account of the affair is given by the Times:

We have received intelligence that an encounter was had with the Rogue River Indians, by a detachment of thirty U. S. troops, on the 18th of June, in Rogue River Valley, near Table Rock. Captain Stewart was shot through by an arrow, and lived 24 hours after receiving the wound.—His dying words to his comrades were "It is too hard, after fighting six hard battles in Mexico, to be killed by an Indian." Two Americans were slightly wounded. There were a hundred Indians in the battle, and 17 were left dead on the field.

It is said that there are more than 1000 warriors there who are hostile, 500 volunteers are expected from the mines, to fight them. Gov. Gaines has a party of 12 men, and General Lane another one of thirty, pushing on to the scene of danger. The Indian chief is reported to be very intelligent, and told the Americans that he could keep the air filled with a thousand arrows if he chose.

We apprehend serious difficulty before the affair is settled. The best made, in our opinion, is to subdue them, and the quicker the better.—The Rogue River Indians are hostile to the whole length of the river, and it is not safe to travel along them. The miners are represented as doing tolerably well though few large strikes are made.

The Indians in the Chehalis country and those about Puget's Sound, are said to be getting troublesome to the whites. They steal and kill their stock. They have but little fear, our informant states, for the "handful of troops" stationed in that country. These people think themselves greatly neglected by the Indian agents—they say they have not been visited by any of them. Their interests are valued at \$2,000,000. This, they think, should entitle them to some notice.

The accounts that have reached us lately from the mines are anything but encouraging to the lovers of the precious metal. The water in the dry diggings has so much disappeared that it is difficult to make more than expenses. The health of all the diggings is reported to be good. But one man is said to have died of disease, up to the middle of May. Several have died from wounds received by attacks from the Indians.

At the approaching meeting of the Royal Hawaiian Agricultural Society, prizes, consisting of silver cups, medals, books, diplomas, &c. will be awarded to the successful competitor, for objects specified by the Committee, or, for others not specified, should any be found worthy.

For the Polynesian. THE FORSAKEN. See how she moves on; the world is before her, and a history to be written, whose pages are to be filled with life's loveliest pencillings, or perhaps with incidents of eventful interest, of startling, fearful record! Who can throw aside the veil, even of three score years and ten for her, and record the happy and sunbright incidents that shall arise in succession to make joyous and full her cup of life—that shall throw around those embellishments of the mind and heart, that which crowns the domestic circle with beauty and loveliness; that which sweetens social intercourse and softens, improves, and elevates the condition of society! Or who with firm and unwavering hand can register the hours and days of affectionate and silent weeping of midnight watching! Who pen the blighted hopes—the instances of unrequited love—the loneliness and sorrow of the confiding heart—the deep corroding cares of the mind, when neglected and forgotten, as it were, by him who is dearer to her than life—when all around is so sad and desolate, when the garnered stores are wasted, and the wells dried up, and the flickering blaze upon the hearth wanes and goes out and leaves her in solitude, in silence and in tears! But her affections wane not, slumber not, die not!

The brilliant skies may shed down all their gladdening beauties, nature array herself in gay flowers, and bright hopes and friends, kind friends, may greet with laughing countenances and glad hearts, but all avail nought. One kind look, one soft and affectionate accent, the unequivocal evidence of remaining love; one smile like that which wooed and won that heart, would enkindle brighter and deeper and lovelier emotions at its fountain, than heaven, with all its splendor, and earth with all its beauties and gay associations.

JOSEPHINE. The following communication, from Capt. Rogers, contains important information to ship-masters bound to the Chinese waters, and we are happy to give it publicity. We also invite all ship-masters to communicate information of his description, which will always be thankfully received, and published for the benefit of the commercial interests of the Pacific.

For the Polynesian. DEAR SIR,—Should you deem the following of sufficient interest, you are at liberty to publish it in your paper, as there has been much doubt of the existence of South Island: At noon, on the 30th June, I passed close to a cluster of rocks, about 200 yards long, about 50 yards in breadth, and 10 or 12 feet high; which I suppose to be the above-mentioned South Island.

By good observation I made the lat. 31° 47' N., lon. 139° 39' W. These rocks cannot be seen over five or six miles in a clear day, and in thick weather, or a dark night, would be very dangerous. I passed close to, but could discover no reef or shoal jutting off from the main cluster.

There are several islands laid down upon the charts in this vicinity, and none of them are correct. It is very desirable that we may have that part of the Pacific Ocean, surveyed, as it is directly in the passage of vessels from China to California, Oregon, or the Sandwich Islands.

You will remember I discovered an Island last year, not laid down on the charts, lat. 32° 10' North, lon. 139° 32' East. Yours, respectfully, W. M. J. ROGERS, Master of ship Flavius. Honolulu, August 8, 1851.

LATER FROM CHINA.—By the arrival of the Flavius, Capt. Rogers, we have been furnished by him with dates to the 14th of June. The Flavius has made the passage in 52 days, and brings a cargo of China goods to Messrs Makee, Anthon & Co.

From a private letter, dated June 5th, we learn, that "the young Emperor of China is spoken well of, as a person of application and parts; but his reign has commenced inauspiciously in this part of his empire, a revolt having broken out in Kwangsi, adjacent to this province, which has reached now a pitch of resistance likely to give H. I. M. much trouble to quell. The insurgents have no definite grievance to remove, and therefore there is nothing to hope from success, while they carry disaster in every direction. I can hardly see the upshot of the affair.

The opium trade steadily increases, and its dire effects multiply in proportion. It is the most gloomy quarter to turn to, as affecting the interests and prosperity of this people, and I can hardly bear to dwell on the results it is likely to work out.

The Ayrshire, recently arrived from Calcutta, reports the total destruction by fire of the clipper Ariel, belonging to Messrs. Dent & Co, off the Pilot station, with upwards of 1000 chests of opium on board.

The following account of the entire loss of H. M. steamer Reynard, is taken from the Hong Kong Register of the 5th June. We have hastily put together the